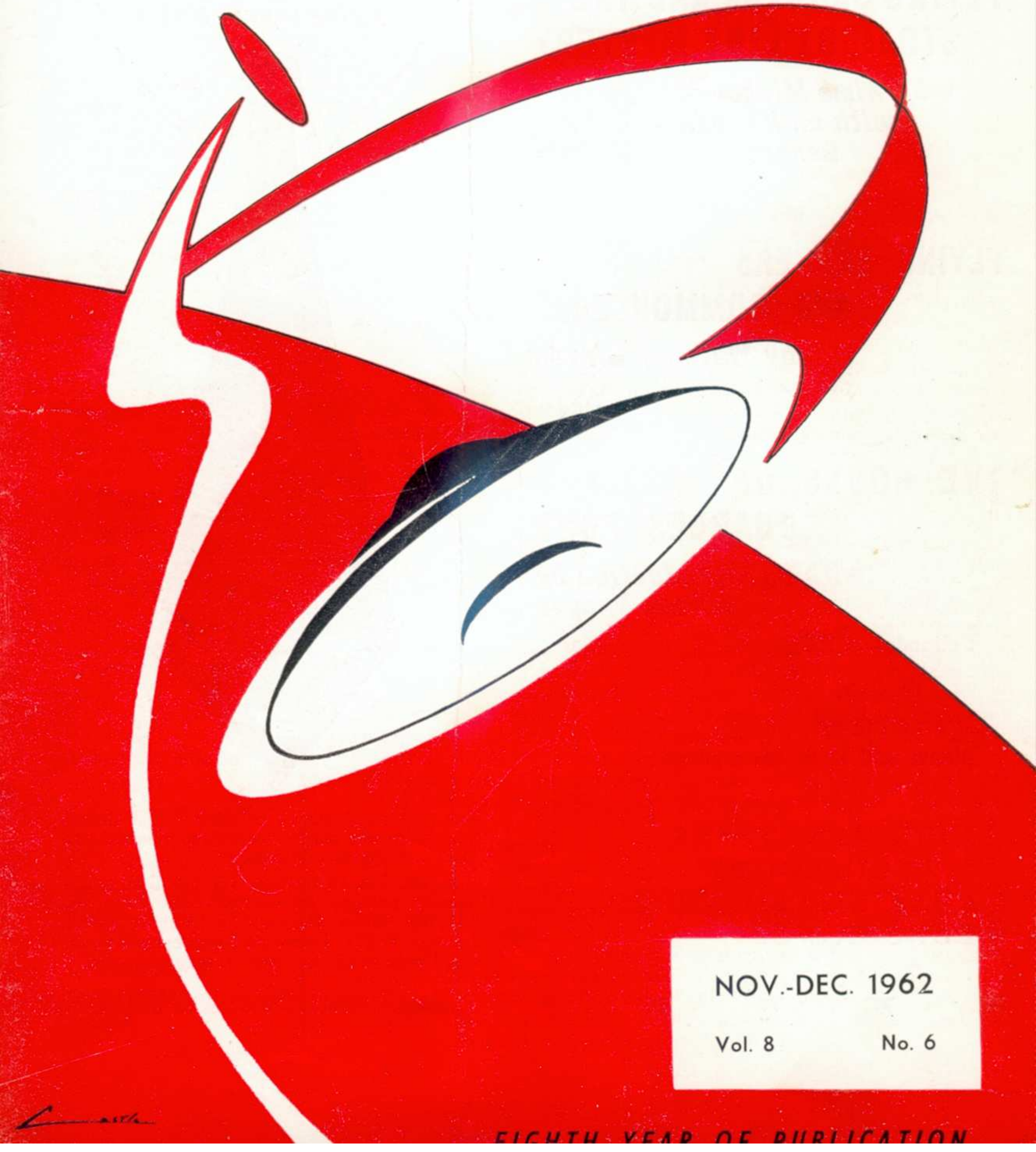
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW



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Edited by
Waveney Girvan

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol. 8 No. 6 **NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

1962

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Flying Saucer Review

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A leak

THE mystery of the flying saucers would seem to be reaching a climax, touched off by the recent increase of sightings; the people of Sheffield were responsible for the renewed interest in the subject in England. Whether this upsurge of activity is to prove just another nine days' wonder remains to be seen, but those of us who are dedicated to this study will always be grateful to the many witnesses who came forward fearlessly with their testimony. The Sheffield " wave " has led to a development which we feel it our duty to report.

A year or two ago our readers engaged in controversy as to whether there was or was not a conspiracy of silence on the part of the Government and also, possibly, the Press. With regard to the latter, we are convinced that the British newspapers, at least, are not censored. The editors of the papers, however, had become sensitive to ridicule and unless the sightings are of an exceptional nature they are not likely to give them prominence. A serious article giving the mystery a fair review was, however, unlikely to get into print. The Sheffield " wave " has at last proved that the truth can be published without interference from a higher authority: the editor of this REVIEW was allowed plenty of space to put the case for the flying saucers in the *Sheffield Telegraph* on September 1. Sheffield also proved that once the ridicule is dropped the general public is deeply interested. It is not surprising, however, that it should remain indifferent to a subject if it is first brainwashed into believing it does not exist. Even in a county like Yorkshire, not many people would attend a cricket match if the spectators had been assured for year after year that there was no such game and that bats, balls and stumps were figments of the imagination. It will be agreed that this would not be the best way to whip up attendances.

Whence came the ridicule that seemed to have silenced the Press? Official science, of course, played its part as it so often has in the past when confronted with a major advance in human knowledge. Some newspapers, no doubt, took their cue from one or other of the recent Astronomers Royal. Others, perhaps, waited for the Government to make some pronouncement. All that happened was that the Air Ministry from time to time attempted to explain away the objects reported in the sky and we believed that this attitude of mind could be sincere though misguided. A sequel to the Sheffield sightings has changed our opinion.

One of the most puzzling aspects of the mystery of the saucers has been the attitude of the various governments. It has always been our

view that if a conspiracy of silence exists there would sooner or later be a leak. The nearest open leak came from Edward J. Ruppelt when he wrote his report on *Unidentified Flying Objects*, though a careful reading of this book suggests only that the American Government was taking the matter very seriously. Apart from Ruppelt, however, the secret seems to have been very carefully guarded. But the story of the flying saucers is so fantastic that human nature, it was thought, would sooner or later assert itself and give the game away. The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, from time to time, has heard vague rumours of such leaks, but not until now has it felt able to print them largely because they came at third or fourth hand. That such rumours might be founded on fact was, of course, possible for large numbers of people must be involved in the secret, not all of them directly in the Government employ. Further, in times of peace, security must of necessity be less stringent than during a war. We would have thought that of all subjects this would prove to be the most difficult to conceal for ever. The Sheffield sightings, however, at least led us to our first clue to the truth. Because saucers returned to the news, certain information came into our possession from a source that was previously unaware of our existence.

In retailing what we have recently heard, we are not daring to mention names. We have two reasons for this. The first is obvious from the very nature of a leak and we could not betray a confidence. Even if we were to, our action would merely be to provoke an instant repudiation. What we can do is to hint at the nature of the leak, and to allow our readers to accept or to reject it at their will.

Those who have followed the story of the flying saucers in this REVIEW and elsewhere will know that, broady speaking, there have been two types of contact stories. The best authenticated, in our opinion, have been those from France in 1954, largely because of the physical evidence left behind on many occasions and the independent test of orthoteny. These involved small and odd beings, not exactly human and occasionally causing shock when encountered. At the other end of the scale, it is alleged, have been the human and friendly type of visitor and it is these stories which have been rejected as wildly improbable, partly because human beings, it is held, could not have come from the planets in our solar system and partly because they seem to preach a philosophy that is suspect. Be that as it may, we are now given to understand that some (though not all, of course) of such contact claimants are telling the truth and that even the most fantastic parts of their stories may indeed be true. Furthermore, we are encouraged to believe that the governments of at least two countries, England and America, are aware of the truth, but are reluctant to proclaim it through fear of causing panic. We now believe that it is quite possible that we are being visited by at least two extraterrestrial types, one of which is far in advance of us in every way and whose members come to us with every sign of friendliness.

Our policy, it will be recalled, has always been to treat the contact stories with caution but with an open mind. We now feel even more certain than before that further research into these claims offers the greatest chance of reaching the truth in the shortest possible time.

And if we are to believe what we have been told, then most of us will live to see George Adamski at least partially vindicated.

Sighting reports . . .

From England, Sweden, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the U.S.A. and Brazil

. . . in this issue

My discovery will prove Adamski's claim

by Basil van den Berg

In its September-October issue the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW printed an account of Mr. van den Berg's astonishing claim to have deciphered the Adamski hieroglyphics and to have constructed an anti-gravity device based upon them. The author now tells his own story and we append an interview with him by our correspondent, Mr. Phillip J. Human, on August 2.

THROUGH the medium of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW I take this opportunity of conveying to as many readers as possible throughout the world the facts of my findings through the past ten years, beginning in 1953, when one of the most controversial books ever on the subject of UFOs was published. I refer to *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, by Desmond Leslie and George Adamski, of America.

Many books have been written regarding UFOs or "flying saucers," but I can, through my own findings, in utmost sincerity, say that the most important of all books to be written are those by Mr. George Adamski. I say this because he has, in all sincerity and honesty, and with great courage, tried to convey to the world the simple straightforward truth about these phenomena.

I use the words sincerity and honesty quite openly as regards Mr. Adamski, since I now have indisputable proof for the scientist and layman alike that George Adamski's claims are authentic beyond reproach.

Careful judgment

I am not a person who believes in everything that I read without first weighing the pros and cons very carefully, and even then I reserve my judgment. I have learned through experience that it is unwise to judge my fellow beings without the necessary evidence to justify that judgment. Therefore, I did not judge Mr. Adamski off-hand as so many had done when I first read his book *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, since I had neither evidence nor proof that he was a fake, or that he was genuine.

Prior to my reading his book, my interest in flying saucers was nil, since I had never heard, or read, of them before. I was therefore in no position to take sides either for or against. What did arouse my interest was the amazing similarity between Mr. Adamski's photograph of a scout-ship published in his book and a strange object that had trailed my bomber for three hours during the last war. This incident we reported to Intelligence on arrival at base, and subsequently learned that sightings of these strange phenomena had been reported before, but no explanation of what they were could be given.

On coming to the conclusion that there may be some connection between Adamski's story and my war-time sighting, I took a keen interest in the photograph of the symbolic message dropped to George Adamski by Venusians from just such a craft.

My opinion was, that if there was any truth in his book and there was a connection with my own sighting, then the symbols would give the answer, one way or the other.

From then on I worked for many months on the symbols, trying by every possible means to connect them in some way with a tangible solution. I finally succeeded in discovering the right "channel" through which the symbols could be interpreted. Here I was on my guard as to whether this was a clever hoax perpetrated by Mr. Adamski, or really symbols given to him by beings from another planet.

This gave me more reason to discover the truth, since I realised that either these symbols could be the basis for some of the greatest advancements in science in the world, or it could mean

a waste of time. I then wrote to Mr. Adamski and asked for clear prints of the symbols, since the reproduction in the book had lost most of the clarity and detail. On receipt of these prints I settled down to the arduous task of gleaning the information from them to the best of my ability—little realising the tremendous task that lay ahead. As the years passed by, more and more information was revealed—information that no being on earth could ever have dreamed up to use as a hoax, for they reveal the fantastic truth of these craft in detail. They reveal the method of propulsion, as well as two powerful magnetic motors, and detailed plans of the interior and exterior of these craft, giving both the large mothership and the smaller scout-craft commonly known as flying saucers.

Since the motors alone have not yet been invented on this earth, and since they have been solved through the symbolic message, the big question is: "Where does the message come from?" Obviously not from anyone on this earth—that a child can see—so no matter how impressive the scientists may try to be, they cannot deny this, and are misleading the public.

Since these findings have borne practical proof of Mr. Adamski's genuineness and of space craft from planets other than ours, it is my intention, along with Mr. Adamski, to give to the people of the world that which is rightly theirs.

It is already too late for any interference from any source whatever, whether it be at Government level or not. This interference was foreseen years ago and consequently plans have in the past been put into operation and carried out in utmost secrecy throughout the world to counter any move seeking to prevent these works reaching mankind.

When the world has this proof, which is not far off now, Mr. Adamski will once and for all be vindicated.

My Interview with Basil van den Berg by Phillip J. Human

On the morning of April 29, 1962, another alleged contact with a being from another planet hit the headlines in a leading Afrikaans Sunday newspaper—*Stem*. In this instance the contactee was a Mr. Basil van den Berg, of Johannesburg. I have always been inclined to believe George Adamski, and as this latest contact was mainly based on the controversial Adamski "symbols," I was most keen to meet Mr. van den Berg personally. We started corresponding and I was impressed by his humility, sincerity and forthrightness. At length a mutually convenient time and date for our first meeting was agreed upon.

It is difficult to describe my feelings and thoughts as I walked down Eloff Street, Johannesburg, towards our rendezvous, on the morning of Thursday, August 2, 1962. As I approached a certain corner I noticed a tall man, erect, with kindly eyes, surveying the passing parade of shoppers. It was Basil van den Berg. I shook hands with the man whose contact story had caused such a sensation in South Africa and who claims to hold the magic formula that would ultimately pave our way to the stars.

We soon found a convenient tea room and sat down in a quiet spot. In my brief-case was a copy of the January-February FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, which describes Professor Marcel Homet's amazing discovery in northern Brazil of boulders with engraved symbols which bear a striking resemblance to those of Adamski. I noticed that my friend had brought a bulging folder and a strange gadget which he handed to me for inspection. It was part of a motor he had invented from the decoded Adamski symbols, and of which a photo appeared in the September-October REVIEW. It seemed to be made of steel, and I remarked about its weight and the fact that it seemed to be "alive." He smiled as he said "I'm glad you notice that it is alive. Look, here are the magnets!"

Then he described its importance in great detail and opened his files which testified to the enormous amount of work obviously involved in its construction. There were literally hundreds of triangular-like drawings that seemed to fit into a master blueprint. I nodded my head wisely and often, as if taking it all in, but at the same time pitied him, as the scientific jargon was falling on uncomprehending ears. "Basil," I thought, "you were never safer in your life. It doesn't mean a thing to me!"

He must have caught on as he suddenly asked: "Now what have you got in that magazine you said you were so keen to show me?"

I wondered what his reaction would be as I turned to Professor Homet's illustration of the Brazilian hieroglyphics. He seemed stunned for a moment and then exclaimed: "This is amazing! It is absolutely fantastic! The drawing is upside down, but just look at those symbols!" He then produced two prints of Adamski's symbols, and I noticed what a vast improvement they were on the one appearing in *Flying Saucers Have Landed*. He then compared Adamski's with Professor Homet's and excitedly drew my attention to numerous points of apparent similarity.

Our tea was cold by now, but that didn't matter. "Please give me this magazine for further

study under my magnifying glass," he pleaded.

"With pleasure," I replied, "but look at the time! We mustn't keep the *Stem* people waiting." They knew of my visit to Johannesburg and wished to interview us together.

As we hurried along to the *Stem* offices, Mr. van den Berg was explaining the three-dimensional aspect of the Adamski photograph and how he was discovering new symbols every time he studied them under a magnifying glass. "It seems there is no end to all the details given. What brilliant scientists these Venusians must be to be able to superimpose their symbols over Adamski's photograph." "You know," he went on, "I worked night and day to break down the code. Often I was tempted to call it quits, but yet I plodded on until I found success crowning my hard work. Soon I was constructing the motors. All the details were there. I shall never forget the day when the first motor was ready. It functioned perfectly. It was on my birthday. . . . Then I met the 'Master' . . ."

I did not press for details as we had reached the *Stem* offices. The hum of printing presses could be heard coming from the basement. I thought of the time, thirty years ago, when I worked in a printing office myself. In those days the offending flying saucers were virtually unknown.

In due course we were ushered into a spacious office. After the usual introductions I took my seat with a great deal of apprehension, but felt honoured all the same to take my stand in defence of the "saucers" and the beings who pilot them. But I need not have worried. I was in the company of sincere friends. They were "believers," too.

It was an interesting experience and the interview lasted nearly three hours. Once again Professor Homet was under discussion and my precious FLYING SAUCER REVIEW changed hands once more as it was needed to illustrate a report that subsequently appeared the following Sunday.

How I wished that every editor of every national newspaper took such an interest in flying saucers in general, and FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in particular, as did the *Stem* newspapermen!

I am happy to report that throughout the interview Mr. van den Berg backed my views and observations, and I was impressed by the obvious esteem in which this soft-spoken and unassuming "go-getter" was held by the *Stem* personnel.

Hours later I saw Mr. van den Berg to his bus, but not until he had told me more about his contacts. To put the reader in the picture also, I can do no better than to quote from one of his letters:

> "A point I would like to clear at this stage is the misinterpretation by the editor of *Stem* regarding my meeting with our Brother. On the first occasion he merely put me back on to the right track of interpreting the symbols, since I had wavered and had become confused after five years, during which time the motor had already been completed. The second contact was brief, and merely confirmed the first. He brought *no* sketches of his own as reported, and gave me no help whatever in solving the symbols. I repeat: He merely pointed out the correct path to follow since I had deviated and had lost telepathic communication with the Master through my own emotions, and that was the sole purpose of the visit. Since then I have solved much more, and have gleaned a tremendous amount of knowledge through my own efforts. The Brother has taught me the folly of emotional interference and I have since guarded against it, thus keeping our telepathic channel open and clear.
>
> "My aim is to prove to all and sundry Mr. Adamski's genuineness and that the symbols are *not of this world*. I could so easily claim these inventions as my own doing without even mentioning the symbols, and not a single soul on this planet would ever be the wiser. Not even Adamski!"

I believe Basil van den Berg, just as I have always believed George Adamski.

ARE YOU WEARING THE FLYING SAUCER TIE?

Large numbers are already

See the advertisement on the inside front cover of this issue

SHEFFIELD'S SENSATIONAL WEEK

A major breakthrough

THE September-October issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW reported the sighting of three Sheffield boys last February and the photograph taken by one of them. On August 25 the *Yorkshire Post* reported that the boy who took the photograph, Alex Birch, aged 14, was escorted by his father to see Air Ministry officials in London. The picture, though slightly out of focus, showed quite clearly five dark, fish-shaped objects, above the trees in the garden in Moor Crescent, Mossborough, Derbyshire. In addition to the dark objects, there were several clusters of white or clear spots. One cluster is immediately above one of the objects. Mr. Birch remarked after the interview that the officials asked him to try to confirm the exact date on which the objects appeared and also the time of day as these details would help them. "Alex was on holiday at the time and he is sure it was a Sunday," Mr. Birch was able to inform those who were assigned to the investigation.

The young boy was subjected to questioning for nearly two hours and his father said that they took a lot of information from him. "I was told that I would get an answer if I came to London and showed them the photograph and the negative. Now they say they will have to make more enquiries," he said. It would seem that Mr. Birch was, perhaps, rather dissatisfied with his trip to London, because he added: "The photograph and the negative have already been examined by photographic experts in Yorkshire. The officials will not say whether it is caused by the weather and they won't say that the objects are not some sort of flying saucers."

Difficult story to "kill"

Mr. Birch is very much to the point, judging by previous incidents in the past, for it has been the practice at the Air Ministry to explain all such objects away. It would seem that the Air Ministry in London was anxious to pinpoint the exact time so that a convenient weather balloon could be enlisted for the purpose, but until the Sheffield boy can be more exact it would be rather dangerous to offer any confident explanation. The *Yorkshire Post,* in its front-page story, reported that the Air Ministry officials smiled at the self-assured young man with the black camera. But they did not smile when they saw the photograph that was submitted to them. If our suspicions are correct they probably realised that here was an incident that was going to be difficult to kill.

The Alex Birch story was merely an overture. The curtain was to go up on a series of fantastic incidents over Sheffield which finally convinced the citizens that something very strange indeed was going on in its skies. The *Sheffield Telegraph* is to be congratulated on its open-mindedness and its courage in printing such excellent reports without the usual hedging and occasional doses of ridicule which have marred so many accounts of similar incidents all over the world. The story can now best be told by quoting from the Yorkshire papers.

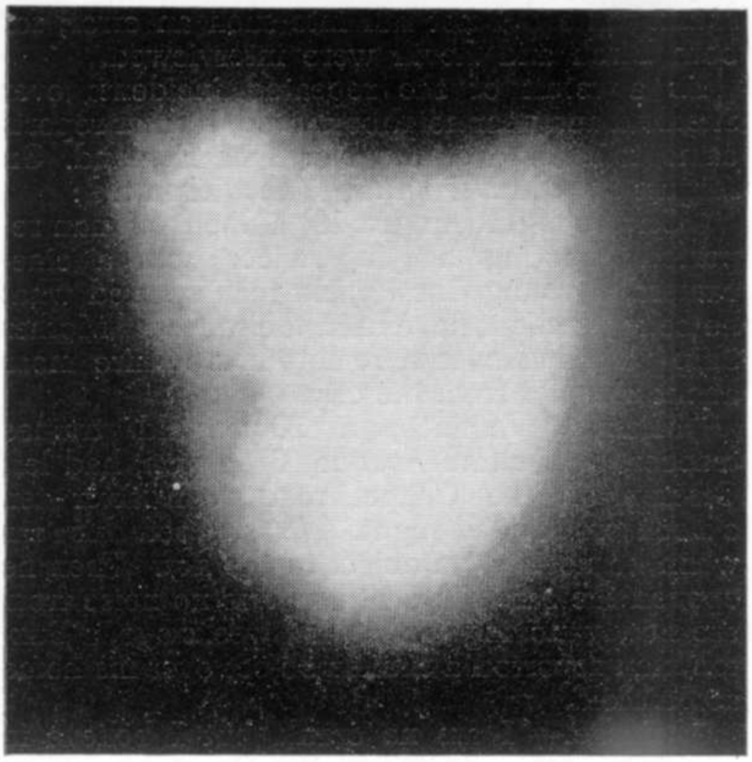
The *Yorkshire Post* on August 21 reported that a cutlery worker in Sheffield thought he had managed to film a flying saucer in flight. His pictures were taken in Sheffield late on Sunday night, August 19.

Mr. Walter Revill, of Walkley Street, Sheffield, explained to a *Yorkshire Post* reporter how he had seen the saucer "sailing over Woodside Flats." "I had gone into the garden for a breath of fresh air when I saw it not very high and sailing slowly away," he said. "It seemed to be made up of two saucers, one over the other, with a sort of platform in between and made of glass. It was visible for nearly a quarter of an hour. There was a brilliant light coming from it but there was no noise. I have never believed in flying saucers before but I am absolutely convinced this was one."

Mr. Revill said he ran back into the house for his cine-camera and had exposed about 10 feet of film. "Now I am waiting for it to be developed by experts to see if there is anything on it."

Mrs. Teresa Spotswood, also of Walkley Street, said she, too, had seen the strange object quite plainly. "It frightened me a lot at first," she said.

Two neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Pellegrino, also saw the object and are convinced it was a genuine flying saucer.



A black-and-white still from the colour film taken by Mr. Walter Revill, of Sheffield, on August 19. As Mr. Revill remarks, the film proves that he and his witnesses were not imagining things.

The *Sheffield Telegraph* on August 27 related the next incident in this sensational series:

" For the second time in a week, almost exactly at the same hour on the same day of the week, a strange, unidentified object has been seen hovering high in the night sky above Sheffield. Mr. Bill Hudson and his wife, Kathleen, had just returned to their Richmond Road home last night when they saw a white object moving slowy across the night sky. They watched it for well over an hour through a telescope.

" ' It was not a plane and not a star or anything like that,' said 45-year-old Mr. Hudson, a shopkeeper. ' I looked at it for a long time through a telescope. At first it was like five white balls spread across a triangle and joined together.'

" ' As it moved it seemed to change shape and become one white object with a red band across the middle. It had a sort of fish tail ray behind. We watched it for well over an hour and it was moving slowly, but steadily across the sky towards Derbyshire and climbing higher and higher as it went.

" ' We would not have noticed it in the first place if we had turned the light on when we came in, but we were both tired and sat down to rest in the dark. It was then that we saw it.'

" ' I could see quite clearly through the telescope that it was not a plane or a star or anything like that. I have never seen anything like this before and nor has my wife.'

" It was exactly a week ago almost to the hour that four people in Walkley, Sheffield, stood for 15 minutes watching a strange, saucer-shaped object moving from north to south in the sky. One of them, Mr. Walter Revill, filmed the object with his cine-camera, but is still waiting for the film to be developed. He then described the object as being like two saucers on top of one another, with a straight line in the middle. He, too, said the object had a peculiar red, or orange, colour about it.

" Spokesmen at Lindholme and Finningley R.A.F. stations said they had no aircraft up this evening and could not say what the object was."

On Wednesday, August 29, the *Sheffield Telegraph* reporter, Keith Graves, was able to confirm the accuracy of yet another report. Here is the story in his own words, printed on the front page of his newspaper:

" I saw a mystery object in the sky late last night. It was first spotted by ex-naval officer Mr. John Needham, of Upper Whiston, near Rotherham.

" He rang the *Sheffield Telegraph* at 10.15 p.m. ' There is a round bright object hovering over the house. I thought at first it was a plane, but it has been here half an hour without hardly moving,' he said. With colleagues Christine Cartwright and Sheila McGregor, I went to Upper Whiston to investigate.

" Many people ring in to the *Sheffield Telegraph* office with reports of ' strange objects in the sky,' but never before had any of us actually seen one. We saw this one and it was definitely not a star or a plane. It was about four times brighter than the brightest of the stars and the shimmering object was moving very slightly towards the west. Through a power naval telescope it looked absolutely round, but with a very bright outer rim round it. It seemed to have a glow round the outside.

" In the centre there was a dark patch, a sort of shade, but later, at the side of this, appeared a pinprick of bright light. The object was very, very bright, but had a sort of blue tint to it. We watched the object for well over an hour and it moved in our orbit about ten feet, which could mean a distance of hundreds of miles if it was very high up.

" Mr. Needham, a Sheffield butcher, told me: ' When I first saw it, it was much lower and larger and there were about half a dozen pinpricks of light around the centre of the object.' Many other people in the street stood and watched the object hovering above them. Like us, they were convinced that this was not a star or plane.

"The big question now is what was the mystery object that we saw for ourselves?

"An officer at Bawtry R.A.F. spoke to *Sheffield Telegraph* reporters on the spot, who gave him detailed descriptions of the object. He said later that the information was being collected as a matter of routine and would be passed on to the Air Ministry.

"Mr. William George Hudson, of Richmond Road, Handsworth, who spotted a 'mysterious object' on Sunday evening, said last night: 'It was there again in exactly the same position. It is triangular with several white circular objects moving inside the triangle. It is throwing off rays of light.'"

A fair summary

Next day, Thursday, August 30, the *Sheffield Telegraph* carried a feature article by Donald Trelford, "Flying Saucers: What is the truth?" and it summed up the evidence of a subject which it declared "is no longer a laughing matter." The article started with the following comment: "Since Russia landed metallic hammers and sickles on the moon—and America announced her intention of probing Venus—flying saucers have ceased to be objects of Wellsian fantasy. If we are almost within reach of these—much older—planets, who is to say that they can't be within reach of us?" This article, which gave a necessarily condensed but very fair summary of the flying saucer story to date, was accompanied by a number of the famous photographs, taken by Adamski in 1952, by Fogl in 1955, by Stephen Darbyshire in 1954, and the recent snapshot taken by young Alex Birch, whose testimony seems, in some strange way, to have triggered off the whole series of sightings which brought home to the people of Sheffield the truth and the seriousness of the subject.

On Saturday, September 1, the *Sheffield Telegraph* carried an even longer article commissioned from the Editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. In this, for the first time in several years, he was able to tell a section of the public the results of numerous investigations into the mystery by researchers all over the world.

With one exception (the *Daily Herald* on August 21 reported Mr. Cuthbert Revill's sighting and colour film), the London daily newspapers ignored the whole series of events. This could only be for one of two reasons. Either the subject is considered to be of little importance or the Sheffield witnesses were not thought to be reliable. It is obvious from the reports from which we have quoted that in either case it is the Editors of the national papers who are in the wrong. In passing, it should be mentioned that the B.B.C. sound radio did not fall into such an error, for both Birch and Revill were interviewed.

As a result of the repeated incidents over Sheffield and near neighbourhood, further reports came to light over the North of England. On August 24, the *Derbyshire Times* reported:

"On the night (August 19) a Sheffield man reported 'shooting' a flying saucer with a cine-camera, a young Chesterfield man spotted what he believes might have been the saucer's 'Mother Ship' cruising over a remote Derbyshire moor about 25 miles from the city.

"Michael Vallance, a 20-year-old trainee teacher, of Welfare Avenue, Brampton, had left Glossop on the Chapel road soon after ten o'clock on Sunday night. He stopped his car when he noticed an object in the sky. When he opened the car window there was no noise from the slowly-moving craft. Then weeks ago, a Buxton man reported a similar object over his home at Fairfield.

"Michael—'I am no crank, but I believe in flying saucers'—described the object he saw as box-shaped with rounded corners. It was, he said, very similar to the cigar-shaped mother ships pictured and described in flying saucer literature. 'I have never seen anything like this before,' Michael told our reporter. 'But I have read quite a lot about unidentified flying objects and I believe in them.'

"The flying 'box' displayed three or four lighted windows and the whole object was surrounded by a glowing light. Michael estimated its height at between two and three hundred feet.

"In view of the 'portholes,' Michael considered the possibility of the object being an airliner—perhaps on an approach to Ringway Airport at Manchester. But when he stopped his engine and opened the car windows the moving object was completely noiseless. There was also a complete absence of anything which could be taken to be navigation lights.

"Michael's sighting was authenticated by his companion, Maureen Rhodes, of Spital. They kept the craft under observation for two to three minutes until it disappeared from view—'as if it had gone into cloud, though earlier when we had been on higher ground on the Snake Pass, we had not seen any cloud.'

"At Ringway Airport this week, Air Traffic Control said they had had no reports of any unidentifiable sightings on Sunday night."

Even the once sceptical *Bradford Telegraph and Argus* in its issue of August 30 reported yet another sighting:

"Referring to recent reports that people in

Sheffield have taken photographs of unidentified flying objects and submitted them to the Air Ministry of examination, Mrs. J. Hickey, of 51 Dudley Street, Tyersal, Bradford, says that she and her husband noticed a strange shape in the sky on Sunday evening (August 26), and watched it for half a minute.

" 'It was round, with a dome on top. It had a tail and was in marvellous colours.' "

The *Yorkshire Post* printed two more sightings in subsequent issues. On August 30 it reported:

"Yet another suspected flying saucer was reported yesterday. After reading of sightings in Sheffield in yesterday's *Yorkshire Post*, Mr. Cuthbert Foster, 60, of Wolsley Place, Meanwood Road, Leeds, recalled an object he saw on Sunday evening (August 26).

" 'It was just after the heavy rain at 6.15, and I was looking out of the door,' he said. 'I looked up and saw what looked like a glass ball.'

" 'I thought it must be a balloon, and then I suddenly realised it was moving the opposite way to the clouds. It was in sight for some time, and then disappeared behind the chimney.

" 'I hurried up to the attic, but by then it had gone.' "

And on August 31, it returned to the subject:

"Three Leeds schoolgirls rang the *Yorkshire Post* last night (August 30) to say they had seen a flying saucer. They were Jennifer Birkinshaw, 13, of West Park Drive West, Denise Grayson, 13, of Roman Avenue, and Juliet Spencer, 13, of Sutherland Road.

"Jennifer, who is a pupil at Shire Oak School, said excitedly: 'We saw an object in the sky at 8.15. It was a little bigger than a large bird, and looked like a sausage.

" 'It was black, and travelling slowly, and it lasted about 30 seconds and then went behind some houses.' She saw the object when she was playing near Roman Avenue."

On September 4, the *Sheffield Telegraph* printed the following letter from a reader, Mr. Frank Gill, of 55, Norton Park Road, Norton:

"Apropos the correspondence appearing in your newspaper during the last day or two with reference to unusual objects being visible at various altitudes, I would like to mention my own experience on the afternoon of August 29. While sitting in my garden about four o'clock, an aeroplane passed over, the colours of which I was able to distinguish. A friend with me remarked that there was another plane close behind. I discovered that this second object was not an aeroplane but was a very bright triangular-shaped thing moving at a tremendous pace through the sky, without making the slightest sound. I assume that this same object has been the one your various correspondents have written of in recent editions of your newspaper."

On September 22, at the instigation of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, the magazine *Today* featured the Sheffield story. It revealed that Mr. Alex Birch, senior, who had accompanied his son on his visit to the Air Ministry, declared that the officials seemed to be anxious to get the boy out of London before the Press could get at him.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Editor and Publishers of the *Flying Saucer Review* wish their readers all over the world a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year. They also take this opportunity of thanking them very cordially for their support and of expressing the hope that 1963 may see truth at last proclaimed.

TRANSLATION BY
G.W. CREIGHTON

THE BRAZILIAN ABDUCTION

Boy's story unshaken

The following account is taken in the main from the Belo Horizonte *Diario de Minas* of August 26. It was also referred to at great length in the Belo Horizonte daily paper *Ultima Hora* of August 28 and the Rio de Janeiro *Tribuna da Imprensa* of August 29. Readers are also referred to the World Round Up feature in the current issue where other Brazilian sightings are recorded, some of them in the same area as where Senhor Rivalino Mafra da Silva was allegedly abducted.

SHAPES that appeared to fluctuate, and two strange objects (of approximately 60 centimetres diameter) that emitted light all over and produced a strange dust and emitted rays that disintegrated a human being—such is the fantastic story told by the boy Raimundo Aleluia Mafra, aged 12. Raimundo avers that his father, Senhor Rivalino Mafra da Silva, was disintegrated before his eyes by the strange objects which were lying at the door of his shack, on the morning of August 20, at Duas Pontes (district of Diamantina), and which objects vanished into the air, leaving no trace whatsoever.

The 16,000 inhabitants of Diamantina are divided in their opinions as to the veracity of this occurrence; some hold that it is simply a case of murder, while others think that Sr. Rivalino Mafra has absconded from his home. And there are some who think it was "the work of the devil." And there are many who believe the account given by the boy.

The reporters were in the Duas Pontes district, hearing the lad Raimundo describe the disappearance of his father and the events preceding it.

A clear account

Despite his under-nourished appearance, Raimundo was very clear and steadfast in his account, describing the dramatic events in great detail. It was only when he came to speak of his father that he began to falter and to sob. He is a poor thin little fellow, who has had no schooling. His home is a shack some 36 kilometres from Diamantina and, being motherless (he lost his mother a little over a year ago), he helps his father by looking after his two younger brothers and by doing all the house-work. He has never heard of "flying saucers," nor of comic-strips, nor radio, nor television or any other such devices.

In the presence of Lt. Wilson Lisboa, Special Police Deputy at Diamantina, the boy repeated for the twentieth time—so the police affirm—the story of the incredible thing that happened to his father before the very eyes of the terrified child. He said the tragic happenings began on Sunday, August 19, during the night. His father and he and his two brothers (Fátimo, aged six, and Dirceu, aged two) had all gone to bed. Raimundo cannot say what time of night it was —the father did not own a watch and, in any case, Raimundo does not know how to tell the time from a clock, but only by the amount of daylight —when suddenly he got the impression that some people were walking about quickly in the room. He called out to his father, and his father lit a small candle. Raimundo then perceived a strange shape, more like a shadow than anything else, floating along through the room, for it did not touch the floor. "It was a peculiar shadow," he emphasised, "not like a human being's shadow, for it was little more than half a metre in height and without any human shape."

"We lay quiet in our beds and the shadow looked at us. Then it went over to where my brothers were sleeping, and looked at them attentively. Then it went out of the bedroom and into the living-room, and out into the yard without opening the door. Immediately after that we heard the footsteps of someone running, and a voice saying 'This seems to be Rivalino.' My father thereupon shouted 'Who's there?' Getting no reply, Daddy got out of bed and went into the living-room, and then the voices began again, asking if he was indeed Rivalino. Daddy replied that he was, but still received no answer. We

went back to bed, and we heard 'them,' perfectly clearly, saying that they were going to kill Daddy. Daddy then started to pray in a loud voice, and the shapes outside replied that praying wouldn't help."

The statement continued

Continuing his statement, Raimundo said that they stayed awake the whole night from Sunday to Monday. "On the morning of the 21st (Monday) I got up very early—at 6 o'clock. I went outside to the field to get the horse for Daddy, when I saw two balls lying there, at a distance of a metre from each other. One was all black, with a sort of spike (antenna) and with a small tail. The colour of the other one was black and white, mixed, and it had the same features as the first one, that is to say antenna, etc., and both were emitting queer noises and seemed to be sending out fiery rays. There was an opening from which there came lots of flashes, like the light of a ——*, dying down and flaring up again rapidly.

"I called Daddy to come and see the strange objects. He came out of the house, still praying, and asking what it was. He stopped some two metres from the objects, and told me to keep my distance. At that moment, the two objects, which resembled big balls, joined up into one, sending out lots of smoke and dust so that the sky was blackened with it. Without rising from the ground, but making a queer noise, the thing crept towards Daddy. Daddy was covered by the strange cloud of dust, which was the colour of sunset (yellowish) and he disappeared in the whirlwind produced by the objects. I went after Daddy in the middle of the cloud of dust, which had a strange smell, but I couldn't see anything. I called out to Daddy, but got no answer. At once the dust vanished, as if by magic, leaving no marks whatever on the hard earth, and it looked as though the place had been swept with a broom. I walked round the house trying to find some sign of Daddy, but could find no trace of him or of the strange object, or of Daddy's footprints. Heavens, I thought, is this the work of the Devil? Daddy had vanished into thin air. I went round looking for him in the neighbouring grottoes, but without result. I have tried to keep a watch for the flight of swarms of birds that like flesh (the Brazilian urubú or vulture), but so far there is no sign of Daddy. Already six days have gone by, and there is not a clue. Was Daddy carried off and killed by the balls? I want my Daddy."

For Canon José Avila Garcia, incumbent of the Cathedral at Diamantina, the case is nothing more than a problem for the police. He stated that there have been all sorts of quite different versions as to what happened, but he thinks that the boy had a dream and that the father has been the victim of a crime. "But, by a strange coincidence," the Canon added, "during the week before the disappearance of Senhor Rivalino Mafra, I was told a rather strange thing by Sr. Antonio Rocha. The latter said that while making a visit to Rio Manso, a place near Duas Pontes, he had seen two balls of fire, emitting strange flashes, fly over the house of Sr. Rivalino. In confirmation of these facts, Sr. Antonio Rocha called as witnesses two other persons who had been with him and whose attention he had drawn to the objects. Sr. Antonio Rocha is a person who deserves to be believed. Perhaps he can give further information on the matter," concluded the Canon.

When the newspaper reporter called upon Sr. Antonio Rocha, the latter confirmed what he had previously told Canon Garcia and Monsenhor Walter, adding that the two strange objects were flying around at great speed in a circle, and very low, above the house of Sr. Rivalino. "I know nothing about the disappearance of Sr. Rivalino," he concluded, "but I did see two strange objects in the sky over Duas Pontes. From the description of the objects given by the son of the missing man, I have the impression that they were the same as those seen by me."

Sr. Joao Madalena de Miranda, an official of the Biribiri Textile Mill, some 8 km. from the scene of the extraordinary occurrence, was the first person to arrive at the spot, having been notified by the son of the missing man. He noticed that at the spot indicated by Raimundo, over an area having a radius of more than five metres, it seemed as though someone had swept the ground clean of all dirt, including all the loose soil, leaving an appearance of exaggerated cleanliness.

Another explanation

In the opinion of Sr. Elagmano Marques da Costa, manager of the Biribiri Textile Mill, the whole thing is nothing but a trick staged by the missing man. He also visited the spot, and is of the opinion that Sr. Rivalino has simply run away to avoid the burden of having to look after his family. He says he does not believe the boy's story, though he is impressed by the repeated descriptions of the episode given by the boy.

The thing that has perplexed the Diamantina authorities in their attempts to get to the bottom of the case is the steadiness with which the boy Raimundo sticks to his story. For the twentieth time the boy has repeated it to the reporter of the

* The original says "like the light of a grasshopper" (gafanhoto, locust or grasshopper), but we suspect it may be some other Brazilian insect. (Not a firefly at any rate—Editor.)

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Diario de Minas, and the Police Officer, Lt. Lisboa, noted that there is very little difference between this and what the boy said on the previous occasions, and that his statements contain no contradictions. He repeats the same story every time, without forgetting the least detail.

Lt. Wilson Lisboa, Officer of the Special Police in charge at Diamantina, together with the *Diario de Minas* reporters and a large posse of police, went on the evening of August 24 to Duas Pontes, which is 28 km. from Diamantina. Lt. Lisboa ordered various searches to be made in the neighbourhood of the humble dwelling of the missing man, but with no results.

Speaking to the reporter, Lt. Wilson said: "As an official authority I have the duty of following up all trails and all the versions of the story, without concerning myself with whether or not the facts are absurd." Already, he added, an investigation had been made into the past life of the missing man, but nothing had been found that could help to throw any light on the case. Sr. Rivalino was in fact born at Pinheiro, a small town in the Diamantina municipal district. He had never attended school. He possessed no photograph of himself.

The child is normal

One of the first steps taken by the Diamantina Chief of Police on hearing of the affair was to have the children placed in a home and to have Raimundo examined by a psychiatrist. Dr. Joao Antunes de Oliveira examined the boy and found him normal, with no signs of mental illness or disturbance.

The doctor questioned the boy at length, finding no evidence of any lying on his part. Raimundo repeated the same story more than four times and always maintained the same steadfastness in his account of what had happened. The doctor had no hesitation in declaring the lad to be in good condition except for a slight degree of physical debility. Speaking to the reporter, the doctor was unwilling to enter into a discussion of the details of the case, preferring to adhere to a medical and clinical standpoint. He expressed no opinion as to the veracity of the occurrence and stated merely that in the first examination that he had made of the boy the latter had seemed to him to be in perfectly good mental health.

For Dr. Benedito Starling, Judge of the Diamantina Court, the flying saucer story is unacceptable. "In my view," he said, "it is either murder or the man has run away to avoid the burden of bringing up his children, or there is also the possibility that the man has fallen into some cave and died there. In my conversation with the Chief of Police, I have suggested that he consider the case solely in its police aspect—i.e. murder or accidental death or purely and simply a case of the man's having absconded. As far as the boy's story is concerned, it does not merit being taken into consideration. What is required rather is a thorough investigation of the boy's mental faculties. Raimundo is an undernourished child and, consequently, liable to hallucinations. I believe personally that his father may have found a bigger diamond and may have concocted this crazy story in collaboration with the boy so as not to have to share the proceeds of his find with his three partners."

The *Ultima Hora* in its August 28 issue published in its Police News section a scathing attack of the scientists of Brazil who remained sceptical in the face of the mounting evidence of the reality of the flying saucers. On the same day the *Diario de Minas* reported that Dr. Joao Antunes had carried out a medical and psychological test on the boy Raimundo. The doctor arranged for an impersonator pretending to be dead with his face covered to be brought before the boy. "Here is your dead father! You lied when you said he had disappeared! Tell us what really happened." With a sad look the boy re-affirmed that he had told no lie and repeated his original story. After-this, Dr. Antunes had no further doubts about the boy's story.

Opinion in the district is, however, still divided. A section of the public remains terrified and hesitates to go out of doors. The streets were said to be deserted at night.

NICAP faces crisis

Warning of Air Force campaign against saucers

THE National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (N.I.C.A.P.), of 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, 6, D.C., U.SA, led by Major Donald Keyhoe, last August issued an emergency bulletin containing several items of great interest to UFOlogers. It also issued a grave warning.

On the front page it carried the following announcement:

" An order controlling all Air Force personnel statements on UFOs and other ' military subjects ' has been disclosed by Major Wm. T. Coleman, former UFO Project Officer and Air Force H.Q. spokesman. The order, a section of AFM 190-4, covers books, articles and scripts for talks and broadcasts. Major Coleman quoted Ch. 4, Section B.2.g., as follows: ' When the manuscript concerns military subjects it will be submitted to the Office of Information, which will review it for accuracy, propriety and conformance with policy, security and for the deletion of classified matter. The policy applies to active duty personnel, retired personnel, civilian employees, and members of civilian components.'

"*By this order, the Secretary of Air Force Office of Information must delete all evidence of UFO reality and intelligent control, which would, of course, contradict the Air Force stand that UFOs do not exist. The same rule applies to A.F. press releases and UFO information given to Congress and the public.* (Our italics—Editor.)

" Major Coleman's important disclosure was contained in a letter to N.I.C.A.P. member Kurt Zeissig, after Zeissig's persistent queries about *Flying Saucers and the U.S. Air Force,* a book by Lt. Col. L. J. Tacker, A.F.-UFO spokesman from 1956 to 1961. After previously stating that the A.F. was not responsible for the book's contents, Coleman admitted it was reviewed under AFM 190-4. Even if Tacker had wished to show positive evidence, this would have been prohibited."

Later on in the bulletin, N.I.C.A.P. warns its readers that:

" The Air Force has launched a new, vigorous programme to nullify all UFO evidence, discredit N.I.C.A.P. and other secrecy opponents, and bury the UFO problem from public view by the end of 1962. (This followed A.F. rejection of our offer of an unpublicised joint evaluation of N.I.C.A.P. evidence.) We are NOT attacking the A.F., nor the loyal personnel who in line of duty censor the UFO facts. We realise the ' explain away ' policy is probably set by a higher agency, as many A.F. members oppose it. But since the new programme, if successful, would destroy N.I.C.A.P.'s prestige with Members of Congress and the public, we are sending this alert while there is still time to act.

" The A.F. programme's main steps to end Congressional and public interest in UFOs:

1. Release of the " most baffling " UFO reports, to disprove secrecy charges; then ' final explanations ' of these long-unsolved cases—by answers contrary to documented facts. (Proof in N.I.C.A.P. possession.)

2. New attacks on expert evidence; belittling claims that 98 per cent. of the pilots, tower operators, scientists and other responsible UFO observers had illusions (optical and otherwise), failed to recognise ordinary objects, committed hoaxes, etc.

3. Quick explanations for new sightings reported by the press, even if the ' answers ' must later be retracted as ' preliminary evaluations.' (Cases on file.)

4. Getting rid of important sightings, for years classed ' unsolved ' by A.T.I.C., by the new label, ' Insufficient evidence.' (Proof in N.I.C.A.P. possession.)

5. Misinforming Members of Congress and the public that N.I.C.A.P. has refused A.F. requests for its UFO evidence. (A.F. signed claims in N.I.C.A.P. possession.)

6. Claims that the UFO issue is kept alive only by the N.I.C.A.P. ' hobby group ' and other 'flying saucer enthusiasts.' (Letters on File.)"

Most unfortunately, at this stage N.I.C.A.P. found itself at a crisis in its affairs and followed this information with an urgent appeal for funds so that it might issue a detailed refutation of the campaign anticipated from the U.S. Air Force. By the time this number of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW appears the success or failure of the cam-

paign will probably be known, but we invite our readers to support Major Keyhoe in his efforts to break the official silence.

In the past, the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has been critical of the methods employed by N.I.C.A.P. to break the official silence and we have deplored its own complete silence on the subject of the contact claims. That having been said, and the crisis come, we can do no other than wish N.I.C.A.P. success. It is felt, however, that it was unwise to engage in a fight with an Air Force, which was known to prefer silence, on the basis of sightings alone. Many of the landings and contact claims seem to offer a shorter cut to conclusive proof than mere sightings in the sky which, however convincing at the time, have now become historical. Admittedly, contact claims attract an even greater share of ridicule, but pioneers must always face this and it is worth considering that the ridicule is perhaps stronger in this field precisely because some of these claims may be true and contain the greater challenge to the silence group. Landings often leave some residue of physical evidence behind, evidence that often cannot be " explained away " in the now familiar terms.

The U.S.A.F.'s motives

What is so extraordinary about the United States Air Force campaign is its determination to close down the " hobby groups " and " flying saucer enthusiasts." If the subject were nonsensical, surely the best plan of campaign would be to debunk it once and let the craze die a natural death. Instead the N.I.C.A.P. bulletin reveals that Major C. R. Hart, UFO Information Office at Air Force Headquarters, has stated that " the UFO investigations and evaluations involve (besides hundreds of Air Force Intelligence Officers) the ' best scientific brains available in the laboratories of all governmental agencies, also scientific investigators in commercial laboratories, whenever needed.' Major Hart also disclosed that the Chief Air Force UFO Consultant, Dr. J. Allan Hynek, has conferred with the world's leading scientists regarding the UFO problem. Lt.-Col. Spencer Whedon, of Air Force Technical Intelligence, disclosed that the Air Force spent an estimated $10,000 on every major sighting investigation. This would certainly seem to be an expensive way to discourage " hobby groups and flying saucer enthusiasts".

The United States Air Force's motives have been discussed before in these columns. Among the reasons put forward for this antagonism to flying saucers was the suggestion that perhaps the highest authority in the United States Air Force does not believe in the concept. This may sound surprising, but if the advice of many leading scientists had been sought, this could be the answer supplied. The difficulty would be in finding many scientists who would admit to such a belief. There are some, of course, but if a panel were assembled, there would probably be no unanimity and it must be conceded that only a minority would support the case for the UFO. However, certain other facts argue against such a simple explanation and one is bound to agree that the U.S. Air Force protests too much. It may indeed help our cause ultimately that it should continue to attack. Many open-minded people have admitted that the repeated denials have at last convinced them there was something to the flying saucers after all.

What is so surprising—if the U.S. Air Force knows the truth but is desperately anxious to deny it for some reason or other—is that the silence group should fight so desperately to kill a mystery which is both beyond their power to control and which may be on the point of a final solution. In the past, the stoutest denials have often been followed by a wave of saucers. It is the saucers and not the " hobby groups " that give the subject its long life, despite all the attempts to close it. Also, before the end of this decade, man will have landed on the Moon—perhaps even by 1965. In a few months' time probes will be gathering information about Venus and Mars. Already several astronauts have told of the strange things they have seen on the edge of outer space. Not all of these have been explained away. Why, then, should the silence group redouble its efforts to strangle truth almost at the very moment when it is most likely to triumph?

There is the further point that America is not the only country in the world that has been beset by this problem. Nearly every territory of the globe has reported sightings and several have offered evidence of landings and contacts. How can America, on her own, hope to keep the genie in the bottle when at any moment some event elsewhere might release it? All that can be said is that if the highest authority does believe in but denies the truth about the flying saucers, then it must be desperate indeed to fight so hard and so late in the day. The only explanation then left is that the truth is something to be feared and that time must be bought in order to prepare an adequate defence. Alternatively, the fear might spring from the conceit of government which refuses to admit that it is not paramount over its own territory, even when it is known that those who are invading it lack any hostile intention.

HALLUCINATIONS, MISINTERPRETATIONS AND PERCENTAGES

by Waveney Girvan

This article is addressed primarily to those new to the subject of flying saucers or those who have recently returned to the fold—perhaps as a result of recent events—after having lost interest because of the silence in the press during the last few years.

"IF only UFOlogists would present their case in a scientific manner they would then be able to persuade the scientists to take the subject seriously." This assertion has often been made, but it is, in itself, unscientific and, indeed, misunderstands completely the problem confronting the students of the mystery. The psychological "block" against acceptance of the saucers is quite strong enough in itself to withstand scientific as well as any other sort of argument. How many scientists of repute have paid any attention to the discovery of orthoteny, and nobody can allege that Aimé Michel or Jacques Vallée have presented their studies in anything but a scientific manner? Also, the assertion which I have quoted seems to imply that the antagonism is between professionals and amateurs. That is not so: the believers include scientists and the sceptics include laymen. No figures are available, but it would not surprise me to learn that the proportions on either side were about the same. All that can be said is that the layman is often less inhibited in expressing his belief.

The problem basically is whether we are to believe the witnesses or not. No amount of technical jargon can pose this question more sedately. No knowledge of chemistry, for instance, can help us. Astronomers at this stage have nothing to offer. The objects have been seen (or have not been seen) in our amosphere. Physicists may argue this way or that about the performance of the UFOs and seek to prove that they cannot exist because they behave in an unacceptable manner. The question still remains. Did the witnesses see the objects or did they not? Einstein, the most eminent scientist of our time, declared in the witnesses' favour, but he used his common sense and not his science to come to that conclusion.

The lunatic fringe is often quoted in order to discredit our case, but the sceptic does so not because he believes that what one person says another must necessarily support: he merely clutches at the lunacy to discount the sanity. "Utter nonsense!", "Bilge!", "No rational person could possibly believe!" were statements made by three eminent scientists. Not one rises to the level of argument, scientific or otherwise. The last quoted is the *argumentum ad hominem*: ignore the case and attack the character of the person who supports it.

An example of the ability of a scientist to disregard a scientific argument was to be found when the *Glasgow Herald's* Science Correspondent on June 26 in an essay on flying saucers was able to write them off as being caused by "a basic and long-lasting hysteria." If the Science Correspondent had heard of orthoteny, which destroyed such a sweeping conclusion, he and his editor were determined not to mention it although it was brought to their attention. As Thomas Hardy wrote, it takes two to tell the truth.

A correlation

In the September-October issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Jacques Vallée contributed a lengthy and scientifically presented article, supported by mathematics and graphs, suggesting that there was a correlation between the oppositions of Mars and the incidence of saucer sightings. He made the following comment after he had established his case: "In fact, those who do not believe in the material reality of the saucers will see in this result a confirmation that the phenomenon is to be attributed to crowd psychology. Since we represent the correlation better by a 'staggering' of two months, this will be said to be because the collective psychosis takes pre-

cisely two months to spread abroad in the minds of the public as a result of the announcement of a close approximation of Mars and to beget visions of a hallucinatory nature among the people." And so we are back again to the elementary question: "Did the witnesses really see what they claimed to have seen?" Jacques Vallée, as befits an open-minded scientist, has been eminently fair to the opposition. It is my contention, however, that he has been too generous to the other side and it is now time to turn the tables on the sceptics and to ask them to present *their* case in a truly scientific manner.

What is the evidence?

Let us examine the case put forward by the Science Correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald*. He has—perhaps unwittingly—invoked a branch of science to support his case. *The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* defines hysteria as "a functional disturbance of the nervous system, characterised by anæsthesia, hyperæsthesia, convulsions, etc. . . ." I take it that the Science Correspondent was not using the word in a figurative sense. If so he, too, was indulging in the *argumentum ad hominem*. In any case, on what evidence is the claim based that those who say they have seen flying saucers have all been suffering from a functional disorder of the nervous system? Throughout its eight years of publication the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and other journals (including the *Glasgow Herald*) have published the names and addresses of eye-witnesses of UFOs. Would the *Glasgow Herald* dare to select one of them and to suggest either that the witness was hysterical or was suffering from hallucinations? If this newspaper, or any other, were to print such an accusation, amounting to defamation, the damages could be very heavy indeed. In the London *Sunday Express* for June 29, at the B.M.A.'s annual meeting, Dr. D. L. Davis reported that he did not dare tell British Railways that an engine driver, one of his patients, was a schizophrenic who talked to his hallucinations while he was driving. Even though the driver was a public danger, he was warned about a previous case where a doctor was mulcted of £25,000 damages for a similar defamation. This may be the reason why the Science Correspondent preferred to indulge in group libel, for which there is no legal remedy, and to defame the thousands of people all over the world rather than to tackle a particular case. However, if a sceptic would like to prove his case once and for all, I suggest that he tries his arm with the recent Aer Lingus case which was reported in the July-August FLYING SAUCER REVIEW. The idea that two airliner pilots were suffering from the same hallucination at the same time is as wildly alarming as it is medically improbable.

On the subject of hallucinations and hysteria and their connection with flying saucers, we have two authorities who have spoken on this aspect of the mystery and neither of them supports the *Glasgow Herald's* Science Correspondent. Dr. Jung wrote: "Unfortunately, however, there are good reasons why the UFOs cannot be disposed of in this simple manner. So far as I know, it remains an established fact, supported by numerous observations, that UFOs have not only been picked up on the radar screen and have left traces on the photographic plate."[1] It is also interesting to note that Dr. Hermann Oberth attended the 1960 UFO Congress at Wiesbaden and there met a number of contact claimants who are regarded, rightly or wrongly, as among the most suspect of saucer witnesses. Dr. Oberth made the following comment: "Sceptics should understand that I studied medicine and began my professional careers as a doctor in a medical hospital for three years where I also had the care of mentally ill persons. I know, therefore, that appearances can be deceptive, but in this case I would bet a hundred to one that some of the contact claimants are normal and have seen and experienced *something*. Of course, what it was in reality I would not dare to decide. . . . I had expected to encounter swindlers, hysterics or schizophrenes. But I must say that among these contact persons, Carl Anderson, particularly, made quite a congenial, reasonable and clean-cut impression."[2] What can be said is that those experts who have undertaken scientific research into our problem dismiss hallucination and hysteria as the explanation. Why should our opponents be allowed any concession if they fail to bring forward a single case in their support?

A simpler reason

One or two points about hallucinations remain. Is there any evidence that a mentally disordered person can communicate his *malaise* across continents and oceans? Because a saucer was wrongly believed to have been seen in California in 1952, could this have influenced Father Gill in Papua to see something similar (with men on board) in Papua in 1959? If he became infected, so to speak, would his many native witnesses also have succumbed? My medical friends tell me that this is impossible. Besides, has anybody examined Father Gill and his witnesses? People who suffer from hallucinations are very ill and their symptoms are likely to recur to such an extent that they are in urgent need of attention, usually in a men-

tal home. Surely it is a much simpler and therefore a much more likely explanation of the mystery that the witnesses of reputable character have seen what they claim to have seen. The " hysteria " explanation is at its best a mere guess and at its worst a piece of intellectual dishonesty employed to ride away from an unacceptable conclusion.

Even with many of the most disputed contact claims, hallucination will just not work. Joe Simonton either faked his account or he is honest. If he faked his story then he made some pancakes in a naïve attempt to bolster up a tall story. If he was honest, then the pancakes, whatever they were made of, are evidence that he did not imagine the whole incident. And so with Adamski and his photographs.

" If saucers are illusions "

It is interesting to note that the recent United States Air Force release did not include hallucinations in its list of " explanations " for the year 1961, unless it was included in the " Other " category which totalled 11.48 per cent. If so, it cannot have been a very high percentage for it is not specifically mentioned with " birds, lights, hoaxes, etc." There is, in fact, nothing in this release which supports in any way the contention that the mystery can be explained by " a basic and long-lasting hysteria." Nor do I believe that any sane person, scientific or otherwise, could hold that, once the news has got about that Mars will shortly be approaching the Earth, the ordinary men and women all over the world work themselves up to the point of insanity (for that is what it amounts to) and start seeing manufactured, circular objects with portholes. If they do behave in this way (I have never met such odd people) then indeed it is high time that the UFO was taken seriously and the whole subject investigated by an international body of highly qualified alienists. As one who has seen a flying saucer himself I now offer myself for the psychiatrist's couch. If saucers be all illusion, I wish that someone would rid me of such a dangerous disease before Mars or Venus comes too close.

The " misinterpretation " explanation offered by the United States Air Force is merely another, though more plausible, attempt to ride away from the mystery. The basic problem once again is whether the witnesses can be believed or not. Each sighting becomes historical. No attempt to reconstruct the incident is possible. To suggest that there were weather balloons in the vicinity is to prove nothing: the moment for proof has vanished. One or two incidents, however, do expose the questionable methods employed by government authorities. On June 19, 1961, the British Air Ministry suggested that the Exeter Airport sighting had been caused by the release of a weather balloon from Bristol University. No such balloon had been released by the University for over a year.[3] A more flagrant example in the United States concerned the Killian sighting on February 24, 1959. Captain Killian and four witnesses claimed to have seen three UFOs while he was piloting an airliner from Newark to Detroit. The first explanation was that he had seen the Belt of Orion (though he had made the point that this was in a different part of the sky from the discs at the time). The original explanation was then dropped and he was told that he had seen a Strategic Air Force aerial refuelling operation. Captain Killian refused to accept this brush-off and eventually he was silenced.[4] If the percentages and the conclusions of the United States Air Force are based on cases like this (and there are several other examples), then their release must be regarded as propaganda and not as a scientific report. However, the argument by " explanation " and percentages, even if specious, does attempt a show of reason—as all good propaganda must—but the " hysteria and hallucination " school of thought seems to have no support whatsoever—not even from the United States Air Force.

[1] See *Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Sky,* by Professor C. G. Jung (Routledge, 1959).

[2] See article "UFOS—Fact or Fiction," by Dr. Hermann Oberth, *Fate* magazine, July, 1962, issue (English edition).

[3] See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (World Round-Up), September-October, 1961, issue.

[4] For the full story see Report on *Unidentified Flying Objects Observed February, 1959, by American United Airlines Pilots* (United Flying Objects Research Committee, Akron, Ohio, U.S.A., 1960).

AL BENDER—and After

by John Lade

THE International Flying Saucer Bureau was first on the world stage (I hold membership card 450 for the year ended July 31, 1954), and there were already branches in Canada, France, New Zealand and Australia when I wrote to Captain E. L. Plunkett in Bristol, its British representative, who replied on July 10, 1953.

"It was started in April, 1952, by Mr. Albert K. Bender at Bridgeport, Conn., U.S.A., and was first brought to my notice by a small paragraph in Tanfield's column in the *Daily Mail* a month or so later. Being extremely interested I wrote Mr. Bender and, following on correspondence, was elected its sole representative in this country. Since then our local membership has grown to 27 persons with a total of some 430 throughout the world. Several local newspapers have been kind enough to feature the Bureau, and also the B.B.C. were interested enough to permit a broadcast about us some months ago in 'The Week in the West.' The majority of the people so far attracted in this country are exceedingly serious minded persons, and are recruited in the main from those interested in electronics, radar, instrumentation of aircraft, engine development engineers, right on down to the ordinary layman like myself who feels positive that there is more behind the Saucer business than we are permitted to know."

Space Review, the official publication of The International Flying Saucer Bureau of U.S.A., was, in my opinion, well produced and edited. The October, 1953, issue (Vol. 2, No. 4) announced that the solution to the mystery of flying saucers had been found, adding: "We would like to print the full story in *Space Review*, but because of the nature of the information we are sorry that we have been advised in the negative."

By a coincidence, the next item on my file is an article in the London *Evening Standard* of November 25, 1953, entitled: "Now . . . BURY these Flying Saucers!" by Sir Harold Spencer Jones, F.R.S., on which the editor commented: "The Astronomer Royal conducts an enquiry into strange objects in the sky and concludes that it is time the question was closed for ever."

Bender said he had been silenced by a visit from three men dressed in black, which had upset and frightened him. Gray Barker, who was Chief of the Department of Investigation of IFSB, tried hard to get him to talk about the visit, which seemed to have happened in early September, 1953, as Barker relates in *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers* (reviewed in our Vol. 2, No. 3, May-June, 1956). He quotes an interview with Bender on October 4 in which Bender said substantially (p. 131): "Just as the three men who paid me a visit were leaving, one of them lingered for a moment and said, 'In our government we have the smartest men in the country. They can't find a defence for it. How can *you* do anything about it?'"

Bender has at last told his story, and it is a surprising one. *Flying Saucers and The Three Men* (Saucerian Books, Clarksburg, West Virginia, U.S.A., \$3.95)* should be read as the testimony of an early pioneer, but it is also first-rate space fiction with the advantage that the author believes it to be true. It is true in the sense that it happened to him, of that his record and obvious sincerity leave no doubt; but it is evident that what happened was not real.

The three men came to see him at home on several occasions and only once through the door in the usual way. They were always accompanied by a smell of sulphur worthy of Old Nick himself. However, it is not fair to describe the story in a detached way because it is so well told that, about half-way through the book, I put it down rather than continue reading late at night. I had got into a frame of mind wherein I felt anything might happen, whereas I aimed to go peacefully to bed—and did so. It was only later in the book that reason prevailed and decided that the events could not be real. Indeed, Bender gives a background of his interest in the grotesque and horrific before the subject of flying saucers came into his life.

It is surely more than a coincidence that the "Flatwoods Monster" incident occurred in early September, 1953, that the story of it is used to open *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*, taking precedence over the silencing of Bender (indeed, it is not until page 121 of that book that Bender is quoted as saying "I went into the fantastic and came up with the answer") and that, in the latest book, Bender on asking Barker to accept the position of Chief Investigator writes: "I thought again of his careful investigation of the Flatwoods incident." Bender would have been particularly impressed because Flatwoods is in West Virginia, Barker's home district.

In concluding his testimony Bender states: "I made a promise also to all former I.F.S.B. members that one day I would publish a book and reveal the matters I had found necessary to keep secret." I should like to thank him for having done so and to pay tribute here to his pioneer work. Bender's talent for organisation and publicity opened the way for the good international communication that exists unofficially in reporting flying saucers; the friendly and efficient tone of his *Space Review* set a

* To be published in London early in 1963 by Neville Spearman Ltd.

standard for co-operation between investigators everywhere which has been inherited and enjoyed by FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

Ghostly spirits are departed from the woods where the pioneer fell. Likewise, in this tale of visitors from a distant planet, who arrived in 1945 to spend some 15 years extracting a trace substance from our seawater in their under-ice Antarctic base, they have left for good. Bender writes: "Since the metal disc vanished and the visitors from space left our planet, flying saucer reports have decreased. . . . Such a visit may not occur again in our lifetime or for many generations to come, and I personally hope that this becomes the case."

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW can and does testify, with each issue, that visits continue and reports are now so frequent that mere sightings, unless there is some unusual feature, are no longer considered news by the Press at large.

The REVIEW began by reporting news, historical records, explanation and speculation; it has passed through a phase lasting several years of reflecting more or less informed opinion about the nature and origin of the phenomena, excluding neither space animals, benevolent guardians, materialisations nor apocalyptic messengers—the forum has been open to all; now, the REVIEW is increasingly able to be scientific in its approach, and this is for two reasons.

On the one hand, Aimé Michel's discovery of orthoteny in the sighting phenomena rules out hallucination, balloons and all other glib explanations of the conventional scientists. Orthoteny is capable of extension and, in cases where sightings are repeated over the same places, it may reveal regular runs of controlled vehicles: the intersection of these runs could even be bases on earth.

On the other hand, the REVIEW is coming into posession of more information than it publishes, whether because this consists of statements lacking proof or because information is given in confidence.

Having been intimately and actively associated with the REVIEW during the last six years, I have had access to much of this information and the following conclusions have been reached:

1. Space travel has existed for ages. Visits to earth may be more frequent today, yet improved communications would suffice to account for the apparent increase in sightings.

2. Visitors appear to be of different types — some as human as we are, others of near human or even weird appearance. They probably belong to many different groups or expeditions and probably come from various planets.

3. Flying saucers are scout-craft used in the atmosphere and based in tubular or cigar-shaped interplanetary ships. But, there are many types including remote-controlled scanning discs (foo-fighters).

4. Some groups have bases on earth and there is general infiltration to an extent few would believe.

5. The facts are known to a few people in authority in the chief countries of the world, but the majorities would be hard to convince at present. Even if convinced, those in authority would fear panic and loss of control of their populations, giving scope to crime, if the news were officially to be announced.

6. This knowledge is the main reason for the enormous sums now being spent in getting out into space. It is safer to meet out there than it is to admit you have uninvited guests.

7. There is no harm in stating this in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, which is engaged in preparing public opinion to accept the facts as they will appear. Infinite horizons alone cannot provide escape from war: but, they give perspective and improve one's sense of proportion.

FLASHBACK TO 1948

Scandinavian visitors to this country report that rockets have recently been seen travelling at very high speeds over Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and coastal waters, coming from the direction of Peenemünde, the German experimental centre where VI flying bombs and V2 rockets were developed. Peenemünde is now in the Russian zone. The missiles are almost invariably seen at 9.30 a.m.

The rockets have been seen at various heights, ranging from just over the tree tops to 25,000 feet. They emit a bluish green flame, but—unlike the V2 rockets—leave no trail in the sky. Their speed is estimated at between two and three kilometres a second, equivalent to about 4,500 to 6,750 m.p.h. Observers say that their trajectory appears to follow the curvature of the earth.

Such missiles have been noticed three times in recent weeks by pilots of D.N.L., the Norwegian Air Lines. One was seen a few days ago off Skagen, the most northerly point of Denmark, by the pilot of a D.N.L. aircraft, Captain A. Hartvedt, president of the Norwegian air-line pilots' association, who during the war served with the Royal Norwegian Air Force from British bases. He and his co-pilot noticed a missile flying at between 20,000 and 22,000 feet. They timed it with a stop-watch; it disappeared over the horizon in four seconds.

From *The Times*, February 25, 1948.

A problem of orthoteny

By Michael Davis

THE article by Jacques Vallée in the March-April issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW on the apparent confirmation of orthoteny in the Algeria-Tunisia area was interesting. However, an obvious question which must have occurred to many readers is: how likely is it that " alignments " similar to the ones noted could be found from a completely *random* set of observations?

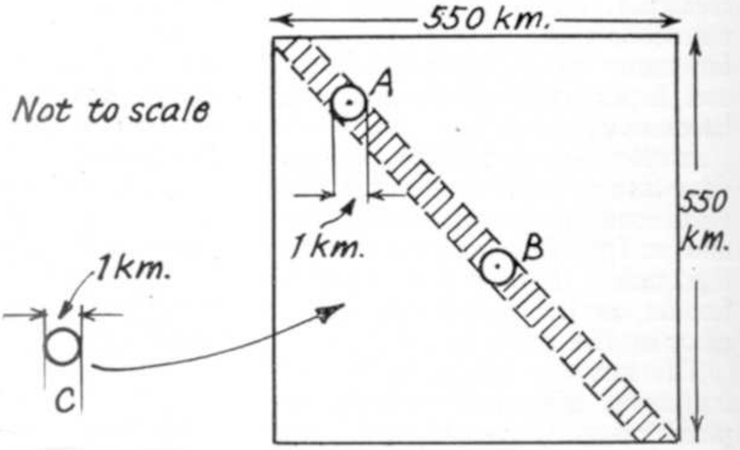
The answer to this evidently depends on how stringent are the requirements for " alignment," and on how precisely located are the sightings. These are not stated in the article, but perusal of the list of sightings suggests that most are not located more precisely than to the nearest kilometer. Then, allowing *no* latitude in making the " alignments," it is found that for 30 sightings in the area covered (about 300,000 sq. km.) one might expect about 15 three-point " alignments " and at least one four-point alignment even if the sightings are randomly distributed. Not only this, but one might also expect, on the same basis, about six sightings to be in no " alignment "—i.e., six " virgilians."

These figures are so similar to the actual number of alignments (15) and virgilians (5) quoted that one must conclude there is no evidence in the article that the sightings are other than randomly distributed. The list of sightings is impressive, but does not support the Orthoteny principle. Similar alignments could be drawn from any such set of points on a map. The simple mathematics to support the above are given below:

1. Area involved is about 300,000 sq. km. To simplify problem make this a square of side about 550 km.

2. Consider just three sightings, each with a possible error of location of 1 km., *A*, *B* and *C* below.

A, *B* and *C* will be in alignment if *C* intersects the shaded band across the country (1 km. wide or about 550 km. long)—hence the *centre* of *C*



must fall in a band 2 km. wide and 550 or more km. long. If there is random distribution, the chance of this happening is 2/550, i.e. 1 in 275.

3. There are 30 sightings; three sightings can be selected from these 30 in $\dfrac{30 \times 29 \times 28}{1 \times 2 \times 3}$ ways.

4. Therefore, one might expect about $\dfrac{30 \times 29 \times 28}{1 \times 2 \times 3} \times \dfrac{2}{550}$ three-point alignments, i.e., about 15.

5. The chance of a four-point alignment is

$$\frac{30 \times 29 \times 28 \times 27}{1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4} \times \left(\frac{2}{550}\right)^2$$

which is about evens.

6. The chance of any point being " virgilian " will be $\left(1 - \dfrac{1}{275}\right)^{435} = 0.212.$

[435 is the number of ways 2 points can be selected out of 30, i.e., $\dfrac{30 \times 29}{1 \times 2}$]

Hence, one might expect about 30 × 0.212 " virgilians," i.e., about *6*.

Jacques Vallée has sent the following reply: "Michael Davis's criticism is interesting and, one can say, constructive, particularly as it deals with a most important aspect of the research into the laws of orthoteny: the calculation of probabilities. The formulæ employed by Mr. Davis are exact on a first approximation. But the same calculation, extended to alignments containing four points, will give:

$$\frac{30.29.28.27}{6.(550)^2} \simeq \frac{1100}{3025} \simeq 0.36$$

And from 5 points:

$$\frac{30.29.28.27.26}{15.(550)^3} \simeq \frac{1140}{(55)^3} \simeq 0.007$$

Now, we have collated, in our research in North Africa, *two alignments of four points and one alignment of five points.* The probability of chance accounting for such an arrangement is very weak indeed. I am at the moment preparing an article devoted entirely to answering the sort of criticism which Mr. Davis has brought forward.

Professor Homet and the Adamski hieroglyphics

by Hubert Malthaner

This article has come to us through the courtesy of Dr. Hermann Buhler. The author is Vice-President of the Munich UFO Study Group.

IN the May-June issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, in the article "Adamski's Hieroglyphics," Charles A. Stickland discussed the authenticity of the hieroglyphics made by the Venusian and published in *Flying Saucers Have Landed.*

With an insight which would have made Sherlock Holmes envious, Mr. Stickland came to the conclusion that George Adamski must have committed forgery, by using a vertical glass-plate and a square object. Such speculations are quite wrong, because there is a natural explanation for the picture of the signs. The block is the place where the negative of the roll of film was fixed with gum on the black paper of the package. When the film was not rolled sufficiently before making the first exposure, the spot of the gum appears on the picture. It is quite natural that the picture can be seen through the gum and the lines of the signs go across the block. The first time that I saw the photograph of the hieroglyphics thus was immediately obvious and a professional photographer agreed with me. Indeed, Adamski thought it so obvious and self-explanatory that he made no comment on it in his book.

As a colleague of Professor Marcel Homet, I can give some new information about the Amazonian symbols. Professor Homet in Sao Paulo has described the results of his expeditions to the region of the Amazon in a book entitled *Die Söhne der Sonne,* published in 1958 in German (the English edition, *Sons of the Sun,* will soon be brought out by Neville Spearman). The book shows the same hieroglyphics as those in Adamski's book. All UFO investigators were very surprised and that began an exchange of letters between myself and Professor Homet to see if Adamski could have copied them.

Here are some points made by Professor Homet in his letters to me: "Although I shall be destroying a great deal of the current theories about the world of antiquity, I have never found Adamski to be untruthful. I am convinced that in olden days Earthlings could go to Venus and wherever they wanted in the Universe. Why should not Venusians and people from other planets come in return, to see what people are doing on the Earth. I read Adamski's book *before* the publication of my own book and was surprised to find the same symbols, but in another order. Only the oval is completely identical to that of Adamski's. The other symbols I found in the course of my expeditions, but they were scattered, and I only put them together with the oval to demonstrate that all the same symbols I found in the Amazon region. The deeply engraved rock-symbols must be 10,000 or more years old, for the weathering inside the symbols is the same as on the rest of the rock. But they could also be older, from 20

(*Continued on Page* 30)

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Another Derbyshire sighting

The *Derbyshire Times* on August 31 carried the following report: "Three Newbold children are the latest people to report seeing a mysterious flying object in Derbyshire. They believe it was a flying saucer.

"In a letter to the *Derbyshire Times* this week, they described the object as 'orange-coloured, round and spinning.' Ten-year-old Lynne Pemberton, of 150 Ringwood Avenue, her brother John (9), and Christine Smith (9), of 158 Ringwood Avenue, saw the object on Friday afternoon (August 24). They watched it hover in the sky for a few seconds and then disappear behind a cloud. It never re-appeared.

"Christine said later: 'I'm sure it wasn't a plane or a kite. We watched it go behind a cloud and waited for it to come out again, but it never did.'

"Her father added: 'Christine told me about seeing this thing, but I didn't take much notice. She's a pretty truthful girl.'

"Lynne and John described the saucer as 'round but a bit like a cigar.' Nothing was near the object when they first spotted it, and it made no noise. Both are convinced that it was not a balloon.

"Mrs. Pemberton told the *Derbyshire Times*: 'They were thrilled to bits and came rushing into the house to tell us. We're sure they didn't make it up.'

"Her husband added: 'John spent 3d. of his spending money on a stamp to put on the letter, and he wouldn't do that without a good reason.'"

Norwich

Seeing's not believing

The Norwich *Eastern Daily Press* on August 18 carried the following report:

"An unidentified object was seen in the sky over Norwich last night. Mr. P. Rose, of 14 Hooker Road, Norwich, told a reporter he saw a 'bright yellow glow, larger than a star,' moving across the sky in the north-west.

"'I don't believe in flying saucers,' he said. He was certain it was not a shooting star, for he and his wife had also seen the object the previous evening.

"The sighting was made at 9 p.m., and to ensure he was not seeing things Mr. Rose called to his next-door neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. T. Watts, who were able to see the 'thing' before it disappeared from view."

Buxton visitor

The *Buxton Advertiser* on August 24 reported the following incident:

"On the road from Glossop to Chapel-en-le-Frith on Sunday night, a Chesterfield trainee teacher, 20-year-old Michael Vallance, of Welfare Avenue, Brampton, stopped his car when he noticed an object in the sky.

"Michael describes the object as 'box-shaped with rounded corners.' It was, he said, similar to the cigar-shaped 'mother ships' pictured and described in flying saucer literature.

"'I have never seen anything like this before,' Michael told our reporter. 'But I have read quite a lot about unidentified flying objects, and I believe in them.'

"The flying 'box' displayed three or four lighted windows and the whole object was surrounded by a glowing light. Michael estimated its height at between 200 and 300 feet. It was completely noiseless. At Ringway Airport this week, Air Traffic Control said that they had had no reports of any unidentifiable sightings on Sunday night.

"In June, a Buxton man, Mr. K. J. Whitehead, saw a small cigar-shaped silvery object, travelling slowly, making no noise, and leaving no vapour trail. Mr. Whitehead was one of a group of people who saw a flying saucer at Shoreham in Sussex in 1955."

Stratford-upon-Avon sighting

The Stratford - upon - Avon *Herald* on July 27 carried the following report:

"More reports of an 'unidentified flying object' over Stratford last Monday night are sought by Mr. J. D. Llewellyn, who observed it twice through an earth satellite-tracking telescope.

"Mr. Llewellyn was with another member of a Midlands interplanetary tracking team who keep a watch on earth satellites when he first saw the 'flying saucer' type object at 10.40 p.m. at his home, 80 West Green Drive.

"He described it to the *Herald* as an 'extremely bright satellite-like object with what appeared to

be a powerful searchlight on top. Slow-moving, it rose from the north-east horizon at about 40 degrees, and its radiance diminished until a green pinpoint remained. From the overhead position until its exit to the north-west, it resolved itself into a triangle of two orange and one green lights.

"'I heard nothing but a faint whisper of sound, similar to a high-flying aircraft, when it was about overhead,' he said. He saw it again at 11.20 and said both times in the early part of the flight it threw out a sort of beam of light which illuminated high-altitude cloud."

Bournemouth mystery

The *Bournemouth Evening Echo* reported in its August 15 issue: "A mystery object, 'like a great big ball of fire,' was seen over Bournemouth early yesterday morning.

"The object was seen about 4 a.m. by Mr. William Young, of 54 Parkstone Avenue, Parkstone, who spotted it from his bedroom window. His wife, Mrs. Marie Young, also got up to see it. She said today that it 'looked like a big star, like a great big ball of fire.' Later, Mr. and Mrs. Young decided that it must have been one of the Russian spacecraft. But the Vostock spacecraft would travel rapidly across the sky, whereas Mrs. Young said this object 'gradually faded away into the distance,' and she thought it took about half-an-hour to get across the sky.

"The object also seems to have been brighter than the Vostock spacecraft."

Another ice bomb

The London *Daily Telegraph* reported on September 17: "A block of ice fell through the roof of the home of Mr. Stephen Moy, in Muswell Hill Place, Hornsey, yesterday. Flights of R.A.F. and civil aircraft are being checked by the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

"Mr. and Mrs. Moy were asleep when the ice struck the house with 'a sound like a bomb,' which aroused them and neighbours. A hole about a foot square was made in the tiles, and part of the ice penetrated into the loft. The rest was scattered about the roadway outside the house.

"Mr. Moy, a draughtsman, said: 'A neighbour heard a whistling noise immediately before the crash, but did not notice the sound of any aircraft.'

"An Air Ministry spokesman said: 'It is to be assumed that the ice fell from an aircraft. We are making normal inquiries.'"

Leicestershire

Saucer scares woman

The following account is taken from *The Times* for September 15:

"A Leicestershire woman said last night that she was terrified late on Thursday night (September 13) by an unexplained object hovering over a car in which she was travelling along a country lane on the borders of Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

"She is Mrs. Myra Jones, of Norris Hill, Moira, Leicestershire, the wife of Mr. W. E. Jones, Clerk of Ashby Woulds Urban District Council, who was driving the car. She said that the incident occurred at 11.20 p.m. on Thursday. She had talked it over with her husband and had decided to make the details public in case they were of scientific interest.

"She said that on the way from Overfield to Moira she saw a light over the car. 'Right above the car at about the height of the telegraph poles was a grey luminous object bigger than the car. It was curved underneath and the top was domed like a child's humming top. There were some dark spots round the rim of the base and the whole thing seemed to be tilted slightly and to be revolving quite slowly.

"'I was absolutely terrified as I thought it was going to land on the bonnet of the car. After a few moments it made a swishing noise, like a rocket, and disappeared.'

"She added: 'I have never believed in flying saucers or had any interest in them, but now I don't know what to think.'

"Mr. Jones said he was looking ahead at the road and saw nothing unusual."

The cautious policemen

The *Lancaster Guardian* of August 31 carried the following amusing account: "People in the Main Way and Aldren's Lane area of Skerton were intrigued on Wednesday (August 29) by what one described as "a brilliantly glowing object" in the sky. One of them contacted the police but a canny constable commented 'Anything so high up is outside our jurisdiction.' So one of the interested ladies telephoned the *Guardian* office from a telephone box in Mainway and was about to give a running commentary when the object disappeared. She said it was very close to the sun and was certainly not a vapour trail. She wondered, she said, if it was 'a reflection from Telstar.' We were afraid we could not help."

SWEDEN

Unidentified submarine

For those readers who like to be kept informed of mystery objects beneath the waters as well as those seen in the sky we reprint the following from the London *Daily Mail* of August 24: "Ships of the Swedish Navy exploded depth charges and shells near a mystery submarine off the island of Gottland tonight after it ignored orders to surface. The submarine, detected by echo-sounded apparatus, was first ordered to surface through hydrophone contact.

"Then a charge of gunpowder was detonated under water—the international order to surface. Again the order was ignored, so the Swedish warships dropped two depth charges 'a safe distance from the submarine' and fired anti-submarine shells.

"The Swedish Board of De-

fence, announcing this tonight, said the submarine then left the area."

IRELAND

Another ball from the sky

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the story of mysterious footballs that fell from the sky. From a rather indirect source there is a further report of this nature. *Le Matin* (Antwerp) on September 9 reported that a mysterious object, the size of a baseball, a little larger than a tennis ball, and provided with four "points" had fallen from the sky in Ireland. The object landed in a field near Duncannon, on the south coast. In falling the object made a crater more than three feet across. At the time of the fall, the explosion was heard over a wide area.

The police were alerted and access to the field in which the object had fallen was put out of bounds. Army experts from Dublin were then called in and there, no doubt, the matter will be allowed to rest.

(Credit to Miss May Morlet.)

NEW ZEALAND

Changing colours

The *Otago Daily Times* of July 12 carried the following account: "A strange, many-coloured ball of light which flashed over Dunedin and appeared to hover over the sea to the south startled many city people about 11.10 last night.

"Reports of the phenomenon which flowed into the *Daily Times* differed as to colour, but everyone agreed they had never seen anything like it. Mr. A. J. Doig, director of the Beverly Begg Observatory, though he did not see it, thought from the decriptions that it may have been a fireball.

"Mr. B. A. A. Sessink, of Waldronville, described it as a 'blue ball preceded by a bright flash. It was far to the south and seemed to come from outer space.'

"Mr. Russell Clark, of Canongate, was sitting in his car at St. Clair Beach when the water and sand were lit up by a strange green light. It changed to red and then to blue at regular intervals, and was still there after a few minutes.

"Another Canongate woman who saw it from her front gate described it as a round yellowish ball with a blue tail. It travelled from north to south and then disappeared out to sea."

SOUTH AFRICA

Blood-red object in sky

The *Natal Witness* on June 28 announced that Mr. C. M. Grover, of Durban, reported having seen an unidentifiable object in the sky about 5.30 p.m. on June 27 when he was about fifteen miles from Utrecht on the Blood River—Utrecht road. He thought it at first to be a thin line of cloud, brilliant red in colour, above the sunset. But when he stopped, the "cloud" suddenly started to move in an extremely fast zigzagging motion, which continued for five minutes. It seemed to be very high. "It looked," said Mr. Grover, "rather like a red-hot golf ball, leaving behind it a trail of burning gases." As he watched, it disappeared and although he waited for some minutes the object did not show itself again. Mr. Grover said that from where he was, the object could well have been moving backwards and forwards over Newcastle, though it was difficult to estimate its exact position.

Down on the farm

The Durban *Natal Daily News* on July 20 reported from Alice:

"An object, which sped across the sky (on July 19), startled two women on a farm, Cathcart Vale, near here.

"The object, resembling a ball of fire, passed about six feet above their heads and plunged to the ground a little further away.

"It was the size of a rugby ball and light. It is now in the possession of the Alice police.

"Several days ago a bright object was seen in the sky above Loerie."

Oudtshoorn object

Die Burger in its August 15 issue posed the following question: "What was it? At about eleven o'clock yesterday morning, whilst Mrs. Rina Fitz-Henry was chatting to Mrs. Lena Cloete, their attention was drawn to a strange cloud formation appearing over the Swartberge. Fifteen minutes later Mrs. Cloete noticed a round, shining object in the sky, the size of a dinner plate. This mysterious object was visible for nearly fifteen minutes before it diappeared over the horizon."

A reader's query

Mr. A. Williams wrote a letter which was printed in the *Springs and Brakpan Advertiser* on July 20: "Last Monday night I saw a large flying object in the sky. It travelled across the Springs night sky at about 10.15 p.m. and when it was right over Springs it circled and shot off at a tangent, changing speed and colour from yellow to bright red. It glowed and then suddenly exploded with a very loud bang. I was amazed with the speed with which it changed direction, as it seemed to stop dead still for a second, then shot off with a tremendous speed. What was it, I wonder?"

Loerie sighting

On July 17, *Die Oosterlig* reported: "Last night at 6.20 a strange, shiny object, metallic in appearance and the size of a rugby ball was seen on the farm Geelhoutboom near Loerie. Amongst others it was seen by Mrs. C. Marx and her son. The object travelled from north to south and seemed to land on the farm somewhere. No further details are available at present."

(Credit for these four South African sightings to Mr. Phillip J. Human and for the translations from *Die Burger* and *Die Oosterlig*.)

United Airlines Pilot photographs UFO

The NICAP emergency August bulletin, referred to elsewhere in this issue, printed the following report:

"A United Airlines pilot has given NICAP a signed report of a UFO encountered during a scheduled airline flight, also a kodachrome of a photograph he took. The pilot insisted that he not be identified because of the inevitable trouble and ridicule. (For submission to Congress, the report will be certified by NICAP Board members, minus identifications.) Main points of the sighting follow:

"The day was sunny and clear, except for a few cirrus clouds. The United airliner — a four-engine DC-6 — was cruising at 16,000 feet between two western cities. When the pilot noted a bright, fast-moving object off the right wingtip he reached for his camera, checked its settings at f.16 and 1/500th of a second. The strange object was flying level, near the airliner's altitude. It slowed momentarily, holding a fixed position as if pacing the DC-6, and the pilot saw it clearly as an oval-shaped device, silver in colour. After he shot one picture, the UFO banked sharply, showing a change in the shadow effect. Then it began to accelerate. It passed in front of a cockpit window post, showing its oval shape against a cirrus cloud. Then it climbed up at a 40-degree angle and rapidly went out of sight.

"'Its speed was approximately ten times that of the DC-6,' the pilot stated. 'It may have been more.'

"The pilot was persuaded to report to NICAP by a publishing-house editor, a close friend. In submitting the report and the picture, he made it clear that fear of ridicule had kept him (and the rest of the crew) from reporting the case to the Air Force. In answering NICAP's form question, 'Were you interrogated by the AF?' he wrote: 'NO, AND I HAD BETTER NOT BE!' This is just one of many important sightings by responsible observers who suppress their information because of the official policies."

BRAZIL

A bottle with two necks

O Diario of Belo Horizonte, in its issue of August 3, reported: "Advices from Cruz Alta, in this State, say that a strange and mysterious apparatus, oval in shape and resembling a great bottle with two necks, measuring 40 metres in length by about 15 in width, was seen on July 30 at the side of the road which links the neighbourhood of Pasnembi and Pojucara in that municipality, by a farmer Joao Lombero and his employee, Antonio Garoup, when they were travelling to the house on the property of the former. Speaking to *O Diario,* they said that their journey passed normally as far as the main road, when, without apparent cause, the motor unexpectedly stopped. It was then that they saw the unusual machine, noticing also the figures of two men, one at each extremity, changing luminous signs. After ten minutes, the mysterious object took to he air, disappearing at great speed. In Cruz Alta, too, various persons stated that they had seen a flying object, brightly illuminated, passing at great height over the city."

A hundred witnesses

The Rio de Janeiro *O Journal* on August 29 reported: "More than fifty people of the neighbouring city of Gouvê say they have seen a 'flying saucer' crossing swiftly in a northerly direction and changing course towards the north-east (Montes Claros).

"According to the description given by the people who saw the strange object, it was opaque white in colour, the size of a football and remained about two minutes soaring over the city, during which time its shape and fluorescence could be observed; for it emitted a curious luminosity.

"In Brasilia, Minas, moreover, 120 kilometres from Montes Claros, more than a hundred dwellers say they saw the same object. The local padre has said that the 'flying saucer' flew over the church slowly, disappearing, later, at great speed."

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Flying saucer enthusiasts and those who are interested in the New Age are invited to write to the address: Tommy Helmer, 98 Alstensgatan, Bromma, Stockholm, Sweden.

SPACE REVIEW publishes current news on astronomy and space research, including Fortéan phenomena. Single copies 2s. 6d. (40c.), post free; six issues 14s. 6d. ($2.00). From Miss S. Stebbing, 2 Station Road, Frimley, Surrey.

BRITISH UFO ASSOCIATION comprises eight UFO societies. All UFO reports are investigated. Secretary: 12 Dorset Road, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

3-in Astronomical Telescope, ALT-izimonth mount tall wood tripod, 70 to 110 astronomical eyepieces, 40 terrestrial eyepiece, case and tripod. 1959. £48. (Box "AT.")

An open letter to Lord Hailsham

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Hailsham, Q.C.,
Lord President of the Council and
Minister for Science,
Office of the Minister for Science,
2, Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

My Lord,

In November, 1961, I submitted to the Prime Minister an open letter drawing his attention to the danger that could arise if an unidentified flying object were to be misinterpreted as a hostile weapon launched by a potential enemy of this country. My letter was also intended as a plea for the ending of secrecy surrounding this phenomenon which has puzzled mankind for the last fifteen years. My letter was acknowledged by the Prime Minister, who informed me that it had been passed to you. Subsequently, after a reminder, I received a bare acknowledgment from you and there the matter was allowed to rest.

I am now writing again to draw your attention to the series of sightings that have occurred this year over the North of England, particularly the Sheffield area. In February a photograph was taken of a number of mysterious objects; in August scores of people saw similar objects and on one occasion a colour film corroborated the testimony of a Sheffield man and his three witnesses. On another occasion, three of the staff of the *Sheffield Telegraph* were able to add their testimony to yet another remarkable occurrence. Full reports are available and the series of events was treated in great detail by the Press, both national and local, and by the B.B.C.

My purpose now is to enquire whether your Ministry is aware of these reports and, if so, whether you and your Advisory Council are studying this matter, which may be of the greatest importance not only to the people of this country but to all mankind.

This letter will be published in the November-December issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, due for publication during the first week of November. I am reserving space for your reply, which I feel sure will be of the greatest possible interest to my readers.

I am, My Lord,
Your obedient Servant,
(Signed) Waveney Girvan,
Editor.

On September 11, Lord Hailsham's Private Secretary sent the following reply:

September 11, 1962.

Dear Mr. Girvan,

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 8 to Lord Hailsham about the reports of unidentified flying objects.

The Office of the Minister for Science is not, however, studying this matter.

Yours sincerely,
(K. R. Mears)
Private Secretary.

To conclude the matter the Editor sent the following communication:

September 15, 1962.

Dear Mr. Mears,

I am sorry that you should have been troubled with my letter of September 8 as I now learn that the Ministry for Science is not studying reports of unidentified flying objects. As I explained in my previous letter, the only reason that I approached your Ministry was because last year when I wrote to the Prime Minister on the subject he referred my letter to you. Perhaps you would be good enough to inform the Prime Minister as well that yours is not the Ministry concerned.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Waveney Girvan,
Editor.

AMAZING NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Can this be true?

BY GORDON W. CREIGHTON

WHEN, in January, 1961, the Soviet press devoted whole pages to proving that flying saucers could not exist, I expressed the conviction (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March-April, 1961) that something remarkable must have been happening behind the Iron Curtain. We knew that we could look in vain to official Soviet quarters for any clarification, and had reconciled ourselves to the prospect of perhaps never knowing the truth. But now an Italian investigator, Signor Alberto Fenoglio, has managed to piece together some parts of the amazing story which he has obtained in personal interviews with a number of Soviet citizens. The latter must perforce remain anonymous, but we are told that one of them is a Russian diplomat stationed in the West, while another is a Russian engineer who was recently in Italy with a technical mission.

I give below a very condensed translation of Signor Fenoglio's article, which appeared in an issue of *Oltre Il Cielo*: *Missili & Razzi**, a Rome journal devoted to missiles and space research.

We must naturally accept the fact that the sceptics will make great play with the anonymity of the Russian informants and will see it as conclusive evidence that the whole thing is a pack of lies. But discerning students of our subject (who perhaps can also imagine something of what life must be like for a Soviet engineer or a Soviet diplomat!) will note the numerous points of agreement with reports of happenings in other parts of the world, and will form their opinion accordingly.

The Soviet Union, with all its war plants, atomic installations, airfields and missile bases, is under constant UFO surveillance. The authorities know it, and are uneasy. Air Force personnel and civilian pilots have encountered huge discs, and "fire balls," and immense cigars, all over the country, by day and by night, and thousands of people in the towns have seen them, too.

The UFOs have frequently been caught on the radar-scopes. In the spring of 1959 they caused widespread alarm and near-panic among Radar and Air Force personnel when they appeared for more than 24 hours in the skies above Sverdlovsk, headquarters of a Tactical Missile Command.

Discs fired on

Red Air Force pilots have fired upon the discs and fire balls. One pilot flew right through one of the giant fire balls. When given the most searching examination afterwards, neither he nor his machine was found to bear the slightest trace or mark. The fire ball had simply "expanded," as it were, to let him through. It then contracted again and flew on as if nothing had happened. While under fire from his machine-guns it had manœuvred and zig-zagged, clearly showing intelligent control.

The saucers seem to have shown particular interest in people who were taking flying lessons. Numerous candidates for the Soviet civilian flying licence have described how the discs dogged them with extraordinary persistence, even following them right back to their airfields.

Estimates of the length of the largest cigars have ranged from 800 metres to 1 kilometre. When observed in daytime, they gave off great tongues of flame and smoke from the rear. At night they showed "an intense bluish-white phosphorescence." When stationary, the cigars were frequently described as being of a greyish colour which made them very difficult to distinguish against the clouds and sky.

The most remarkable of the accounts are as follows:

(1) Near Irkutsk, a year ago, a rocket-shaped machine with four legs was seen to land. The craft and two of its occupants were photographed by a woman doctor from a nearby laboratory.

* Issue No. 105 (June 1-15, 1962).

(2) About a year ago, a small mail-plane, carrying mail and four passengers, disappeared while on a regular scheduled flight across the central plains of Russia. The machine was found, intact, two days later, near Tobolsk (Siberia). Everything on board—engine, radio, mailbags, etc.—was in perfect order. The tanks contained fuel for two hours of flight. The four passengers had vanished without trace. At a distance of 100 metres from the aircraft there was a huge clearly defined circle, 30 metres wide, on which the grass was all scorched and the earth depressed.

(3) Last year, a woman parachutist jumped from a height of 9,000 metres. The pilot of her aircraft saw her floating down, with her chute extended, so he landed to wait for her. She came down . . . at Saratov . . . *three days later.* Her explanation? She had been caught in mid-air by a saucer. Its three occupants had treated her well, had taken her out to an immense distance in Space so as to view the Earth, and had given her a message for the authorities. The envelope containing the message was given to the local Chief of Police. We are told nothing as to its contents.

(4) Last summer, over the city of Voronezh, a giant cigar, at least 800 metres long, came down to a height of only 2,000 metres, in daylight, and hung there immobile. Thousands saw it and there was tremendous panic. Suddenly the cigar "began to grow transparent." It disappeared completely. Shortly after this, some fighter aircraft arrived and flew around, evidently searching for it. Seconds after the baffled pilots had departed, the monster was back again "in the same place" above the city. Then a vast jet of flame suddenly shot out from its stern. The cigar began to move, rose steeply into the sky, and vanished at immense speed.

(5) Last summer, on a hill near Rybinsk, some 150 km. north of Moscow, new rocket batteries were being set up, as part of the defence network of the Soviet capital. A huge disc appeared, at the estimated height of 20,000 /metres, and with it a number of smaller discs. The UFOs took up positions and appeared to be studying the missile-site. A nervous battery-commander panicked and gave—unauthorised—the order to fire a salvo at the giant disc. The missiles were fired. All exploded when at an estimated distance of some 2 km. from the target, creating a fantastic spectacle in the sky. A second salvo followed, with the same result. The third salvo was never fired, for at this point the smaller discs went into action and stalled the electrical apparatus of the whole missile-base. When the small discs had withdrawn and joined the larger craft the electrical apparatus was again found to be in working order.

(6) A few months ago, at a certain factory making heavy tanks (place and exact date are not given) there was a great explosion which almost precipitated an international crisis, as the Soviet authorities seemed to want to pin the blame on American sabotage agents. However, a number of cigars and saucers had been seen in the vicinity of this factory during recent weeks, and there were several witnesses who described how, just at day-break, they had seen a ball of fire descending towards the factory. There followed the loud explosion, accompanied by "myriads of intensely luminous small globes." In the half-light of dawn the whole neighbourhood was lit up, and a great air-blast was felt. For several minutes a great cloud of dust and debris hid the site. When the cloud had settled, all that remained was a rubble-filled crater. This crater was on the spot where, a few minutes before, had stood one particular department of the factory. In that department a special automatic device for use with atomic cannon was being manufactured. After the explosion, a disc was seen stationary overhead for some minutes, as though making sure that the job had been done. At the approach of fighters, the disc made off.

But the greatest mystery of all was that nobody had been injured. For it seems that the factory's alarm siren had been sounded some few minutes before the explosion, and all the workers had taken shelter. At the subsequent enquiry it was established that nobody had touched the alarm, as was in fact shown by the position of the interrupter-switch.

Those who are familiar with the writings of Adamski, Coral Lorenzen, Wilkins, Keyhoe, Meade Layne, Trevor James and Gordon Allen will find in these reports from Russia plenty of food for thought. And—let this be noted—we make the flat assertion that there is not one single element in all these accounts that we cannot match precisely from reports of what has happened elsewhere in the world.

When, as of course will happen, our friends smile indulgently and remark that it is all just a lot of drivel due to mass-psychosis or H-Bomb neurosis, then at least we can console ourselves with the very satisfactory reflection that a good many folk in the Soviet Union must be in pretty poor shape.

MASTERS OF SPACE?

SIR BERNARD LOVELL, who is rapidly opening his mind on matters of space, has handed the palm of victory to Russia in her race to the Moon. According to the London *Evening Standard* of August 15, he stated that he would not be surprised if within a year a Soviet cosmonaut was making a close orbit of the Moon and returning to earth in the manner in which Lunik 3 took photographs of the Moon. It has been declared that the first nation to reach the Moon could dominate the Earth, and Sir Bernard probably had this forecast in mind when he declared: "With this tremendous drama opening up of interesting peaceful scientific uses of new developments, one must say that this Russian exploit (the landing of the twin cosmonauts on August 16) has added a new and agonising dimension to the world's troubles."

It is extraordinary that, near as we must be to a solution of the whole saucer mystery, nobody in authority seems to give a single thought to the possibilities that may confront us. For many years, the Moon has been considered a completely dead planet: lichens might exist there, but intelligent life is quite out of the question. As far as indigenous life is concerned, the astronomers may be right, but if the Russians and the Americans are spending fortunes on being the first to land on the planet, then they must have considered how to overcome the adversities of its atmosphere and how to keep the colonisers alive. And if that is possible, has nobody considered that other space travellers may have arrived there first, overcome the difficulties and established bases from which to observe the Earth more closely? We do not have to believe Adamski that this, in fact, is what has already happened. A number of astronomers have observed strange lights in the lunar craters and even an apparently artificial bridge of enormous dimensions has been reported by more than one observer.

One or two representatives of the Anglican Church have deplored the Godlessness of Russia's claims to own outer space: Sir Bernard Lovell shows alarm at the prospect of Russia's mastery. Nobody seems to have considered that neither Russia nor America can lay claim to outer space and that they both have lost the race before it started. This thought would seem impossible to think except for those who have patiently been studying the mystery of the flying saucers.

HAVE YOU ANY FRIENDS?

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THE FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1 DOUGHTY STREET, LONDON, W.C.1

ORTHOTENY

IN this issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW there is printed a reply by Jacques Vallée to one of our readers who questioned the validity of the orthotenic principle. As higher mathematics is involved, it may not be too easy to follow, but as the question can be loosely—though adequately—posed and answered in terms of common sense, it may be as well to review the points raised in other correspondents' letters in general terms.

One reader declared that if one threw a handful of coins into the air, when they fell to the ground one would be able to discern straight-line patterns. Provided a sufficient number were thrown into the air, that is true. To take this argument to its extremity, if the coins then fell to the ground so that they lay flat and contiguously, an infinite variety of geometrical patterns could be traced. But the analogy with Michel's discovery based on the French sightings in 1954 breaks down. In the first place, Michel did not throw any coins into the air: nor were the sightings on any one particular day so numerous that by judicial selection he could impose the pattern he was seeking. Indeed, as he writes in his *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery,* he *rejected* a number of sightings because they sounded so improbable (i.e., landings and weird encounters). It was only when Jean Cocteau persuaded him to include these that the patterns suddenly emerged. Also, it should be remembered that the patterns appeared when the sightings were plotted on a 24-hour basis.

Michel has been scrupulously fair. He has admitted the occasional " Virgilian " or rebel saucer that appeared independently of the pattern. On one or two occasions even this occasional sighting fell into place when more reports came to hand.

In general terms, it would be true to say that a three-point line, under these circumstances, would be remarkable, especially if repeated. A four-point line would be extraordinary, and incredibility is reached with a five or more pointed line. The mathematical expression of these words have been arrived at by Jacques Vallée with an electronic computer. The odds against chance increase considerably when geometrical patterns emerge.

Some of the correspondents who have questioned the validity of Michel's findings have taken the problem out of its context. Imagine a country at war with an enemy possessing a secret weapon that mysteriously devastated a number of villages one night. If three of these villages lay along a straight line, common sense would suggest that this indicated the route taken by the secret weapon. If another village were to be added to the straight line, it would be considered proof positive. If this pattern were repeated for several nights, the defence would start making plans for interception on the basis of these findings. This analogy is not exact, but it is much closer than that of coins being thrown at random into the air.

The line of five points starting in Italy, crossing France and ending at Southend on October 15, 1954, which was printed in the March-April issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW and submitted to Professor Kopal (see the subsequent issue) cannot be argued away as pure chance. On that date only eight sightings were reported and to find five along this particular line must given even the most sceptical pause to consider. After all, it was the sceptic's case that the sightings were due either to hallucinations or misinterpretations. It is in this context that the odds against chance must be calculated and both common sense and mathematics indicate that they are considerable.

THE ADAMSKI HIEROGLYPHICS

(*Continued from Page* 21)

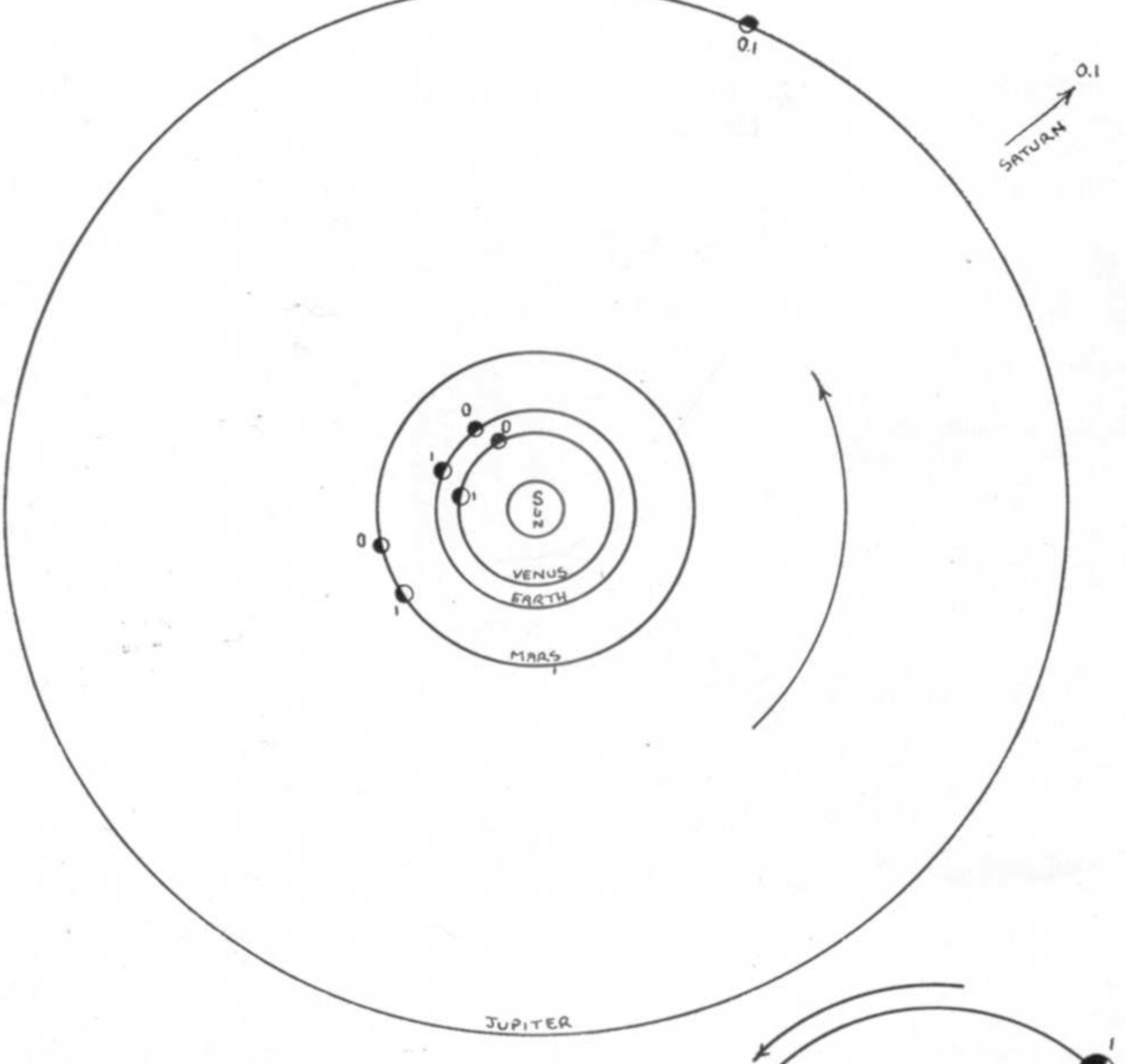
to 30,000 years. I have taken no interest in flying saucers; they are not my field. But if they exist, I can prove there were civilisations that had a knowledge of flying and without doubt knew the atomic bomb, as a result of which their civilisation was completely destroyed."

That is what Professor Homet says. Now we also know that the hieroglyphics of Adamski may not be a message to earthmen. The Venusians merely showed us that the oldest civilisations of earthmen they were better informed than ourselves. This has already been pointed out by Adamski in *Flying Saucers Have Landed*: " Perhaps ancient civilisations of Earth did know these truths of life and left their knowledge on Earth in the form of symbols and records of their meanings are still in existence."

Professor Homet has finished the report on his last expedition. It has important facts for the UFO investigators. His manuscript *On the trail of the Sun Gods* will also be published by Neville Spearman. We await this book with a certain amount of excitement.

THE MOON AND THE PLANETS *by C. M. Pither*

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in its September-October issue published two articles showing the correlation between sighting peaks and the approach of Mars and Venus to the Earth. The map reproduced below is intended to serve as a guide to UFO researchers and will appear regularly in subsequent issues.



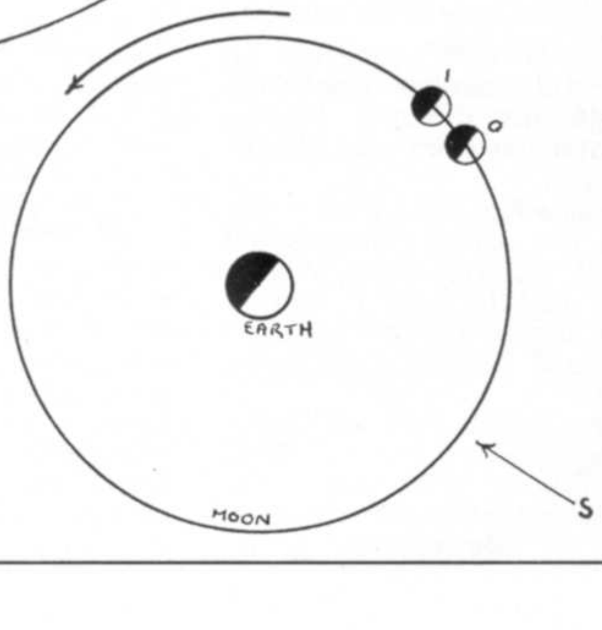


Fig. 1 shows part of the solar system as seen from the North Pole of the system. The arrow between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter indicates the direction in which all the planets shown are moving. Because of the large size of Saturn's orbit it is not shown here but the direction of Saturn is shown by an arrow. There are two positions of each planet in respective orbits "O" = the planet in November and "I" = the planet in December.

Fig. 2. This is on a much larger scale (but not to scale) and shows the Moon's positions in November and December. The arrow marked "S" is the direction from which the Sun's light is coming.

N.B. Venus reaches inferior conjunction on November 12. This means that the planet lies between the Earth and the Sun.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

A genuine photograph

Sir,—I read with interest your article on the flying saucer observations in the Sheffield area.

Many of your readers, no doubt, will consider that these sightings are products of the imagination and the photographs are "faked."

To disprove this, I have enclosed an actual unretouched print of one of these objects which I had the good fortune to observe and photograph, before it disappeared, literally at the speed of light.

It was taken near my home early one Sunday morning, and, as you can see in comparing the object with the trees in the foreground its size appears to be enormous. The predominant colour was similar to burnished copper and against the morning sun it looked more beautiful than frightening.

Mr. Nichols' photograph.

I may mention that my photograph has been retained at Hurstmonceaux for detailed inspection.—T. Nichols, Didcot, Berks.

In defence of orthodoxy

Sir,—I agree wholeheartedly with Ivan Brandt's reasoning to the effect that people outside our own planet are unlikely to differ very much from ourselves in form; in fact, as he points out, everything points to a common form. However, the article must be criticised, because the very title exudes a prejudice comparable with the very one he denounces. Orthodoxy hardly comes into the matter, and here I speak as a Catholic (R.C.), who not only holds to the dogmas and doctrines of Mother Church, but fully appreciates their necessity. There is a point of fact which those outside the Catholic Church seldom seem to acknowledge, and I think it contributes largely to their tepidity, and that is that Christ also said "Believe me, before even Abraham came to be, I AM." (John 8, 58.) The reason man has failed to a great extent to learn and understand what Christ taught is simply the fact that he doesn't want to. He has employed, and does employ, all manner of subterfuge and self-deception to avoid having to accept those parts of Christian doctrine which hurt his pride, namely those which lay emphasis on humility and the negation of self. Each individual has to find for himself, through experience, that this self-crucifixion is the only way harmony *can* come among men. It may also be noticed that this theme is very apparent in George Adamski's books, which is why I am inclined to believe him, and possibly why many others do not.

Perhaps the incredulous correspondent should first re-appraise his Christian belief, and if Mr. Brandt is still under the impression that the teaching of the Early Church Fathers conflicts with Our Lord's, perhaps he should too, starting with St. Paul and St. Augustine. While his scientific approach is commendable, Mr. Brandt has, I feel, spoiled a very good article, because his theological support is too weak and nebulous to bring

any conviction, being, as I said earlier, undermined by a prejudice.

Could I be accused of prejudice if I maintained that St. Paul's Cathedral supported a dome?—E. A. Satchell, Clairvaux, Gorsewood Road, Hartley, Dartford, Kent.

Science and Religion

Sir,—It would seem that my article on Orthodoxy in the July-August issue of the REVIEW has caused Mr. Wade Wellman to imagine that after reading his article "Extra-Solar UFOs," I immediately assumed that he was an atheist; it also appears possible from his letter in the current issue (Sept.-Oct., 1962) that he in turn has identified me with "the Parish priest"! As he has felt it necessary to make his religious position clear, stating that he is, in fact, a member of the Roman Catholic Church, I feel that I should make my own position clear also.

After a careful and intensive study of the history of Christianity, from both the Roman Catholic and Protestant points of view, I am no longer a member of any orthodox religious community. For I have come to the conclusion that both these forms of orthodox religion have been, and still are, the greatest barriers to mankind's material and spiritual progress. The unadulterated and intrinsic teachings of Jesus and of Gautama Buddha are, to me, the only true and safe tenets to be observed and obeyed for the advancement of mankind on this earth, and for the discovery of both theological and scientific truth. Our world is suffering at the present time from the terrible maladies of "imbalance" and false values, and my article on Orthodoxy was a plea for sanity and for the adjustment of our thought in science and religion.

As man has already eaten of the tree of knowledge before he could properly digest it—I mean with regard to the splitting of the atom, or the release of energy and destruction of matter—evolution is not going to wait to save him from the repercussions of this premature and impetuous act while his present limited comprehension slowly and laboriously arrives at what he calls "an understanding between science and religion"!

The fact is that "the problems of extra-terrestrial life and its form and structure" are questions neither for the astronomer and biochemist, nor for the Parish priest, *until* they have answered and solved the many questions and problems of life still remaining to be answered and solved on our own planet. — Ivan Brandt, 46 King Edward Street, Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire.

A Minnesota sighting

Sir,—On December 25, 1960, my family and I were visiting relatives in Cottonwood, Minnesota, U.S.A. Late at night, at approximately 11.45 p.m., I stepped out to get a breath of fresh air and looked up at the sky, which was fairly clear. There were a number of stars out at the time, and I was looking at them when I noticed an unusually bright light travelling in the northern sky.

At first I thought it was a satellite, but when I could think of no satellite which was supposed to be in that area of the sky, I paid closer attention to the phenomenon. In about half a minute, it had become close enough so that I could make out its shape: that of a half-ball on the bottom and a kind of dome on the top. This dome was about half the size of the bottom. On the extreme left was what I took to be a porthole, as a light was shining from it. At the base of the object was an opening which revealed a small part of the interior of the craft. All I could see inside was what looked like a white string. The UFO was tannish and had a silvery glow outlining it, and it was rather large.

It fluttered down, rocking gently from side to side, somewhat like a falling leaf; it did not come straight down but, rather, at an angle. At this point it stopped, hovering, and emitted a whitish object the size of a pea held at arm's length; it apparently came from the side opposite to the one I was watching, i.e. the "back" side. This UFO, which I will describe as "number two," floated in a westerly direction until it became the size of a star. After this, object number one, the "mother," went straight down and let out two reddish objects which came out together, rather than one at a time. Numbers three and four were the same size as number two. After clearing themselves from the mother-ship, they flew south-east and at the same distance from each other, and while they were doing so, they exchanged greenish streaks with each other. For example, number three would beam out this green light, which would hit number four; in turn, number four would return another beam. It gave one the impression that they were "shooting" at each other. After three or four such exchanges they separated and went different directions.

The mother-ship went a short distance in the direction of number four, then stopped briefly and began moving up and down in the opposite direction; finally, it went twice as high as its original altitude, where is hovered. Suddenly I noticed two reddish objects, apparently numbers three and four, near the opening on the mother. They entered this opening, and while they were doing so, I saw object number two coming back to the mother. When this process was completed, the opening closed, and the mother left the same way it had come.

The duration of the sighting was from ten to fifteen minutes.—Roger J. Birner, 209 North Poplar, Canby, Minnesota, U.S.A.

USAF Press Release

Sir,—Having seen only fragments of the USAF Press Release on UFOs of recent date, it was of particular interest to read the entire report in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July-August issue. I would appreciate being able to make the following observations.

The explanation of the category "Insufficient Data" implies

that when size, shape and certain other factors are known, a valid conclusion can be drawn. This is not necessarily so, as can plainly be seen.

The explanation of "unidentified" is equally loose, as it implies that if the description of the object and its motion can be correlated with a known object or phenomena, then it can be classified as such because it *could* be that. Certainly it could be, but this does not prove that it is. It could also be a space ship from Venus.

It is fairly obvious that invalid conclusions are being drawn by the U.S. Air Force, and it can only be assumed that this is intentional in order to hoodwink the public. — A. R. Bray, 23 Joffre Street, Dartmouth, N.S., Canada.

Farnborough Sighting

Sir,—With regard to the sighting of an unidentified flying object at the Farnborough Air Display on Sunday, September 9, I recently contacted the Air Ministry to find out whether they had any information regarding a UFO within the area concerned.

Mr. B. D. Goodfellow, of the Information Division stated that the UFO was probably nothing more than one of the aircraft participating in the display from other airfields, including two De Havilland Tridents from Hatfield. Mr. Goodfellow also suggested that the object could have been one of the airship-shaped toy balloons which were on sale at Farnborough.

The facts are that the UFO concerned was observed by at least three other people as well as myself just after the display had properly commenced. This would be about 3.10 p.m. The object was first spotted in a N.N.W. direction at an altitude from the horizon of about 50°. It appeared long-shaped and silver in colour. No wings were seen even by the use of binoculars possessed by one observer near the airfield. In approximately twenty seconds the object suddenly nosed upwards and rose out of the range of vision. Admittedly, there were five other jet aircraft in the area at the time, but they were flying in formation at a much lower altitude than the UFO. The two De Havilland Tridents were observed soon afterwards covering the horizon from N.W.-W. and vice-versa—"killing time" before they were due to take part in the show.

As the UFO was also observed to remain stationary in the sky for about five seconds before shooting upwards at a phenomenal speed, made me wonder whether it was, in fact, a "mother ship" observing the demonstration going on below.

As far as I am aware, no British-made aircraft, other than the Hawker P.1127, has the ability to hover in the air (except, of course, the ordinary helicopter). No helicopters were in the air at the time and, in any case, they would be unable to fly at such a great altitude. The demonstration Hawker P.1127 model had not, at that time, left the airport grounds, so again, another explanation is ruled out.—Susanne R. Stebbing, Editor of *Space Review,* Frimley, Nr. Aldershot, Hants.

Vortex-driven sky-wheels

Sir,—The results of some experiments conducted in 1956 continue to suggest a new departure in aerodynamics. It was found that a rapidly spinning metal saucer developed axial thrust, accompanied by vortex flow. The air currents responsible came from the internal boundary layer in a spiral cone formation which was partially deflected inwards again by atmospheric pressure.

Obeying the laws of whirlwind activity, the particles that spiralled inwards lost potential energy, some of which was fed back to the airfoil as they re-traversed the boundary layer. In this cyclic process, molecular energy was converted into rotary motion and thrust, though inefficiently. If it can be done efficiently, air pressure will become a source of motive power!

It has been suggested by Lusar, in his book about secret weapons, that the reticence of the Americans about interplanetary traffic is a reflection of the slow cosmonautical progress of the United States as compared with Russia. This could be. And what if Russia were to produce the first vortex-driven sky-wheel?—Robert Morison, 41 Roma Road, London, E.17.

AVIATION AND SPACE

The December 1 issue of the new "Aviation and Space" magazine will contain an article by the Editor of the "Flying Saucer Review." This is another welcome sign that the subject is gaining respectability. Only a few months ago it was almost impossible to get into print about flying saucers without suffering ridicule in one form or another. "Aviation and Space" is available at all bookstalls, price 2s. 6d. In case of difficulty it can be obtained direct from the publishers, Air and Sea Publications Ltd., 3 Deanery Street, London, W.1.

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